

ELIZABETH'S STORY

■ Our exclusive serialisation of Sarah Bradford's authoritative biography of the Queen
■ An acclaimed historian's intimate account of a wife, mother and monarch



PAGE 15

■ Part five: the turbulent marriages of Charles and Andrew
■ How the Queen faced up to a double family crisis

FILMS

Nicolas Cage gets blind drunk in Las Vegas
PAGE 37

In the spotlight

Valerie Grove on living and loving with 101 Dalmatians
PAGE 17

APPOINTMENTS

32 pages of top jobs, Section 3

Tory grandees 'preparing plot to depose Major'

By Nicholas Wood
Chief Political Correspondent

SENIOR Conservative MPs believe that a group of Tory grandees is plotting to oust John Major after the May council elections.

They have told *The Times* that the group includes leading figures previously regarded as loyal to the Prime Minister.

Many MPs and ministers, increasingly despairing of the Government's chances of overhauling

Labour's big lead in the opinion polls, say that the Prime Minister's leadership will come under renewed pressure after heavy losses in the May poll. But the claims that Mr Major is losing the confidence of prominent figures who rallied to his side in last summer's leadership election suggest that the scale of the threat to him is more serious than many Tories have supposed.

Mr Major's backers, who remain numerous, will dismiss the claims, which are being advanced by figures on the Right and the Left of

the party, as no more than a dirty tricks operation by disaffected MPs unable to come to terms with the Prime Minister's victory over John Redwood.

Ministers genuinely loyal to the Prime Minister are adamant that he will fight off any attempt to unseat him. But the fact that rumours of a high-level conspiracy are circulating at Westminster is a further indication that his position has been weakened by the turmoil of the last few weeks, which have seen the defection of Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats and

Baroness Thatcher's demand for a return to right-wing policies.

It appears that senior Tories apparently loyal to Mr Major have been considering an attempt to replace him for some time. *The Times* has been told that as long ago as last summer loyal backbenchers were taking discreet soundings among colleagues. Some leading figures in the Lords are rumoured to be involved in the current moves.

Some MPs believe that the reason Mr Major called the snap leadership election early last July was because he became aware that he was the target of wider dissatisfaction than that voiced by his Euro-sceptic critics.

It is also being suggested that the plot has been reactivated in recent weeks out of despair at the Government's continued dismal poll ratings, the rebirth of the Centre-Left after last summer's Cabinet reshuffle and anger over the Prime Minister's handling of the Nolan report, which requires MPs to

declare their earnings from parliamentary allowances. One MP who claimed to be aware that something was afoot said: "These people are motivated by one thing alone — power. They believe that the Conservative Party has a divine right to rule and they don't want to pay the higher taxes that would come with a Labour government."

Known dissidents on the Right and the Left have been speculating about a "bloodless coup" in which the leadership is smoothly transferred to Michael Heseltine with-

out the bruising spectacle of a leadership contest. But close friends of Mr Redwood last night discounted such a possibility.

Mr Major was given a boost yesterday as Sir Richard Body, the last of the "whipless" Tory rebels, returned to the fold. His Commons majority officially rises to five, although it would drop to three again if the Tories lose the two pending by-elections.

Rebel returns, page 10

Palace refuses to settle £1m debts

The Queen will not bail out Duchess

By Emma Wilkins and Anne Ashworth

THE QUEEN is refusing to help the Duchess of York with debts of more than £1 million, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

The Duchess, whose prolific spending far outpaces her income, is being told to face up to her financial responsibilities alone. The Duchess's office said yesterday that she was quite aware of the Queen's decision and that she was making huge economies. It is legally possible that she could be bankrupted, since she has few assets, but it is unlikely.

As the scale of her problems — including interest charges of up to £90,000 a year — became clear, royal officials pointed to the Queen's substantial provision for her daughter-in-law. She received a £2 million settlement when she separated from her husband four years ago, securing two daughters' futures and giving her a generous income to rent a home.

In a highly unusual move yesterday, the Palace made clear that the Queen was not prepared to intervene any further. "The Duchess's business ventures are conducted quite separately from any royal duties, and any transactions resulting from them must be resolved between the Duchess and her business associates and creditors. They are not a matter for the Queen," a spokesman said.

"The Queen has made generous provisions to the Duchess over a number of years and reached a private agreement in 1992."

"Since her separation, the Duchess has carried out no official royal duties and therefore whatever business difficulties she has got into are a matter for her, her bankers and advisors to sort out. It's not up to the Queen."

This could prove an expensive year for the Queen. She may have to contribute to a divorce settlement for the Princess of Wales and if Prince Edward were to become engaged to Sophie Rhys-Jones, the Queen would probably buy the couple a house.



The Duchess will have to deal with creditors

The Duchess's problems stem from her failure to make the fortune she hoped from her *Budgie* books, while continuing to lead a lavish life-style punctuated by frequent trips overseas.

Redecorating Kingsbourne — the Victorian mansion in Wentworth, Surrey, that she rents for £6,000 a month — is estimated to have cost tens of thousands of pounds, and the wages bill for her staff of cook, dresser, butler, nanny, chauffeur and a clutch of personal assistants is estimated at £32,000 a month.

She has now embarked on a cost-cutting exercise, including reducing her staff and abandoning her new year skiing holiday at Klosters. Her press secretary, Dominique Valliamy, left this week along with her assistant, Simone Canetty-Clarke, and will not be replaced.

Ms Valliamy denied yesterday that she had left after arguing with the Duchess, but said it would be inappropriate to comment further. Kate Waddington, another member of the Duchess's staff, said: "The reason that Dominique and her assistant went is because of financial cutbacks. There used to be five of us in

the office, but now there are just three."

Ms Waddington said the Duchess would not comment on her financial affairs. "It's a private matter and nothing more is going to be said" — although she admitted last year that she was in trouble.

In a recent interview, the Duchess said that she intended to spend more time generating income. "I have decided to concentrate on my commercial activities and cut back momentarily my trips for charity. I have to work to earn my living, to be able to provide my daughters with a pleasant upbringing," she said.

She has also insisted that she is making huge cutbacks and that she is scrupulous in separating her charity money and private finances. "Nobody can say that I use any of my charity money for personal use because it would simply not be true. You know the truth is I always pay my way."

The Duchess is said to have her overdraft with Coutts. The bank does not discuss individual accounts, but it said that a customer with a large loan would probably be charged an arrangement fee plus interest at 2 or 2.5 points over the base rate of 6.5 per cent.

All customers with less than £3,000 in their accounts pay bank charges of 75p per statement entry, plus a £45 quarterly management fee.

Assuming that a customer made a hundred transactions each month — a reasonable number for a freespending globetrotter — and an interest rate of 9 per cent, the annual charge for a £1 million overdraft would be about £91,080.

An ordinary mortal with a high street current account would not be allowed to run up such a debt. But if it were permitted, it would be more expensive. For authorised overdrafts, Barclays charges 1.5 per cent per month, plus a £5 monthly charge. That would mean £180,000 a year.

Overseas trips, page 7
Elizabeth's story, page 15
Diary, page 18



A pall of smoke hangs over the City as fire rages on top of the 600 ft tower

Fire hits NatWest Tower

By Carol Midgley and Dominic Kennedy

ONE of the City of London's most famous landmarks, the NatWest Tower, was ravaged by fire yesterday as workers were repairing damage caused by an IRA bomb in 1993.

The blaze on the top of the 45-storey tower sent dense black smoke across the skyline above the financial heart of the capital as 500 workmen in hard hats rushed down fire escapes to evacuate the 600 ft

vacant office block. Experts began their investigation last night into what is likely to be one of the most expensive blazes of recent years.

There were no injuries. Roads in the area were blocked and firefighters were aided by a high-tech airborne infra-red camera that has just started operation on a trial basis. The "spy in the sky" camera picks up heat waves coming from fires and trans-

forms them into pictures.

The NatWest Tower had been devastated by the Bishopsgate bomb which killed one person on April 24, 1993. When the tower opened in 1980, it was Europe's tallest building, having cost £72 million and nine years to complete. It was overtaken in height by Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

Estimates for the repairs after the bombing were £50m.

Oil giants cut more than 4p off petrol prices

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

A DISCOUNT war broke out between Britain's largest petrol retailers yesterday when Shell slashed up to 4.4p a litre off its prices from midnight last night at all 2,000 of its garages.

The move came the day after Esso, the market leader with 2,100 forecourts, announced it was scrapping its 10-year-old "Tiger tokens" gift promotion in favour of lower pump

prices throughout the country. Previously, Esso had concentrated its price reductions in the North East of England and central Scotland. Its new pledge promising pump prices "among the lowest available" and "normally unbeatable" is likely to result in cuts of at least 3p a litre.

David Pirret, general manager of Shell UK's retail division, said: "We have competed vigorously in a regional price war for around six months and are now offering lower prices to the

rest of the country." Yesterday's reductions means that a litre of Shell Advanced 4 Star falls from 63.9p to 59.5p while a litre of Shell Advanced Unleaded will fall from 58.9p to 56.9p.

None of the other leading petrol retailers announced price cuts of their own, but industry experts said it was only a matter of time before they followed suit.

Shell and BP said they would be keeping their service station gift

The latest round of discounting comes in response to aggressive competition from the major supermarket chains, which have taken around 23 per cent of the petrol retail market by selling it as a "loss leader" for their stores.

"We welcome this move by the petrol companies in following the lead we have set," said Tom Vyner, deputy chairman of Sainsbury's. "Our commitment is to offer the best possible

Continued on page 2, col 4

Terrorists set to end hijack of Black Sea ferry

From Thomas de Waal in Moscow and Carlotta Gall outside Pervomaiskoye

THE TURKISH Government and pro-Chechen commandos who have hijacked a Black Sea ferry agreed in principle last night to end the crisis peacefully.

But other Chechens were holding out with hostages for the third day running in the village of Pervomaiskoye in southern Russia despite salvos of Grad rockets, artillery bombardment and attacks by helicopter gunships. The head of Turkish intelligence said the ferry hijackers could reach Istanbul safely and surrender after holding a news conference — a deal to which the commando leader agreed, according to the semi-official news agency Anatolia.

The gunmen, who are holding about 200 hostages, had earlier given warning that a rescue attempt would force them to blow up the ship, blocking the Bosphorus Strait.

"We've all got 10lb of explosives strapped to our chests," one hijacker told Reuters by telephone from the Turkish vessel in the Black Sea as it was shadowed through 20ft waves by two Turkish coast-guard ships. "That's enough to blow up both us and the whole boat," said the gunman, who

gave his name as Abrek.

Tokcan, the hijackers' leader, claimed in a telephone call to Anatolia that explosives had been placed under lorries and fuel depots. He also said they had 50 friends on board, many carrying guns.

The Turkish Interior Minister, Teoman Unusan, said Tokcan was from Düzce, in northern Turkey, and had fought with Chechen rebels seeking to breakaway from Russia.

The hostage-takers said they had no argument with the Turkish Government and would free Turks on the 3,838-tonne *Avrasya*. Tokcan added: "This is a warning to Yeltsin."

"It is a very sensitive incident," President Demirel of Turkey said. "No such thing happened to us before. There were plane hijackings but a ship hijacking never happened to us before."

At its present rate, the ferry could reach Istanbul by late today or early tomorrow depending on the weather. Ali Caner, a Turkish passenger, told the television station they were being treated well.

Chechen crisis, page 13
Leading article, page 19



FURTHER REDUCTIONS
AT THE AUSTIN REED SALE.

AUSTIN REED

REGENT STREET, LONDON AND BRANCHES COUNTRYWIDE

TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 48

LETTERS 19
OBITUARIES 21
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 18

ARTS 37-39
CHESS & BRIDGE 42
COURT & SOCIAL 20

SPORT 42-46, 48
TRAVEL NEWS 22, 23
LAW REPORT 36

Revealed! Blair's oh so simple stakeholder masterplan

The secret is out. Labour's plans for Britain are clear at last. Now we know what Tony Blair meant in Singapore by "stakeholder" Britain. Details were revealed to MPs yesterday by Margaret Beckett, chief opposition spokesman on trade and industry.

Under Labour there will be "a great, united, national effort", she said. And that was all she said. The plan is devastatingly simple.

Mrs Beckett's announcement was received in some-

thing close to shock at the audacity of the strategy. But of course, like all strokes of genius, once explained it seemed so obvious. Why had nobody thought of this before? For 15 years the Tories have been gassing on about deregulation, privatisation and the like, while "old" Labour has been advocating State control. Thrusting both aside, Mr Blair and his team have cut the Gordian knot.

Mrs Beckett was responding to Ian Lang, the Industry Secretary, in an exchange

about Britain's trade balance. How could this be improved? By a great, united, national effort, Mrs Beckett said. After this insight, it was a wonder anybody bothered to stay.

But we did, to hear James Pawsey (C, Rugby and Kenilworth) ask about an exotic new element in European thinking he called "the Seychelles chapter". Either they are even posher in Rugby and Kenilworth than we had imagined, or EU enlargement proceeds alarmingly.

As Pawsey spoke, Ian Lang

gazed round from the front bench in apparent rapture. Tory backbenchers, now in your hour! Terrified of further defections, government whips have ordered frontbenchers to sweet-talk even the sourest old lags behind them, though Pawsey does not look particularly sour.

David Congdon (C, Croy-

don NE), a man with the aspect of a crematorium janitor, found his thoughts on Labour's policy failures received by ministers as might be a lecture from Wittgenstein. The youthful Nigel Evans (C, Ribbles Valley), ever ready with an apple for the teacher, found Mr Lang ready with a basketful of peaches.

An astonished Sir Michael Grylls (C, Surrey NW), who had chanced a mild observation or two to Richard Page, a junior minister, was greeted with the news that "I have always listened to you with reverence and affection". We do think this was going a bit far. The day Sir Michael abandons the Party of Capitalism we may expect the Pope to denounce St Peter.

But ministers went further. Teresa Gorman rose (well, took off) with some familiar protests about Brussels direc-

tives, her drift being that these should just be ignored. "I do have a lot of sympathy," crooned another junior minister, Philip Oppenheim, "with that. I think my hon friend makes some fair points there."

Was this necessary? It is hard to imagine where Mrs Gorman could defect to, except Outer Space. When Nicholas Budgen (C, Wolverhampton SW), who was being beastly as usual, heard Mr Oppenheim "reciprocate my hon friend's warm congratulations with the same

warmth" he must have wondered whether flattery could be pushed further. It was. Oppenheim congratulated him on his sporting credentials.

Only Michael Fabricant (C, Mid Staffordshire) missed the new mood. Thanking Ian Taylor for his answer, Fabricant told the minister he had found it "long, detailed and helpful". Poor child. He thinks backbenchers are still supposed to flatter ministers, rather than the other way round.

Give all workers a stake in their firm, says Labour

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Labour leadership will today call on employers to allow all staff to own shares in their companies. It will pledge that a Labour Government will find ways of encouraging more firms to give shopfloor workers the same rights to shares as senior executives.

The party aims to remove administrative barriers to share option schemes and to sweep away the cultural obstacles to the idea of lower-paid workers being given the chance of owning a part of their firms.

Support for "shares for all" is the latest example of a dramatic shift in economic attitudes. Only a few years ago the prevailing party attitude to shares was one of suspicion.

Labour, which is taking advice from City experts and companies running share ownership schemes, will look at whether existing tax incentives are being used efficiently. But sources emphasise there is no "pot of gold" from which new tax concessions can suddenly be found.

The plans, to be heralded in a speech by Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, coincide with a regional tour by Tony Blair to sell his vision of the "stakeholder economy". They are seen by Mr Blair as an important and symbolic part of his stakeholder concept.

That concept came under further attack from the Tories yesterday after John Monks, general secretary of the TUC,

said in *The Times* that it would help the unions to rebuild their influence. His claim, that it was the means by which individual members could collectively make their voices heard and realise their "stakes" in society, was seized on eagerly by Conservatives, as was a call yesterday from John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, for new laws on employees' rights.

Mr Edmonds told BBC Radio's *The World at One*: "People in Britain have fewer rights to information, they have less right to know what is going on in their company, they are more insecure at work and more easily sacked. Now some of those have to be put right by legislation."

"We already take many cases of individuals to indus-



Darling says plans do not need legislation

trial tribunals and I can see that as the rights in Britain are brought up to European standards, there will be even more need under a stakeholder economy for trade union support to ensure those rights are properly implemented."

Mr Darling insisted that the plans did not need new laws to make them work. He said: "All history shows, if you pass rules and regulations to try and force someone to change their culture, it doesn't work. You have to convince people that the only way they are going to succeed is firstly by ensuring that everybody who works for a company, from the boardroom to the shopfloor, feels involved in making that company successful."

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, attacked the Labour initiative as "empty flannel" that revealed nothing of policy for sustained economic prosperity. "It is waffle."

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, said there was no need for trade union laws. "We are wary of new legislation. What has to happen is for businesses, sometimes working with trade unions, to be clear about the training and motivation that they need to give to workers to make sure they feel they have a real stake in the company."

Today Mr Darling will argue that shareholding should no longer be seen as an optional extra, or something unusual, but "as the norm in a dynamic economy".



Petrol prices cut by 4p

Continued from page 1

to lead to our customers and this we will continue to do. We have obviously set the petrol giants a challenge."

Paul Manney, trading manager for Tesco Petrol, which sells unleaded at 53.3p a litre and 4 Star at 60p a litre, said the cuts proved that the major oil companies had been overcharging their customers. "They have justified their higher prices by claiming their petrol is better quality than that sold by the supermarkets. These claims have never been justified."

City analysts said selling petrol was now perilously close to being unprofitable and warned that thousands of small garages could be forced out of business by the price war.

Leaded petrol costs about 8p a litre on the international oil markets compared with a retail price of about 13p before tax in Britain. The 5p difference has to cover the cost of transporting and selling the petrol and allow for a profit.

The price cuts were warmly welcomed by motoring organisations, which urged drivers to shop around for the best deals. The effect of a 3p per litre price cut would mean a fuel bill saving of about £36 a year for a motorist clocking up 8,000 miles and £54 for a driver averaging 12,000 miles, the AA said.

The British average before the latest price cuts of 61.9p for unleaded premium petrol compares with 82.6p in France and 77.1p in Germany. Only Luxembourg was cheaper at 61.3p.

Treasure seeker to get £141,000

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who stumbled across a magnificent hoard of 126 Roman gold coins while learning to use a metal detector will receive £141,850 as a reward. The money will be shared with a farmer who rents the land where the coins were found and the owner of the field.

The figure, determined by the value of a find, was set by the independent Treasure Trove Reviewing Committee which met yesterday.

The coins, which include examples dating from the reign of the emperor Nero and span a period of about 100 years from AD 64, are described by the British Museum as one of the richest finds of Roman gold to have been made in this country.

They were unearthed in an Oxfordshire field by William Darley, 52, an iron moulder from Didcot, who had taken up the hobby only a month earlier. He said: "I'm really excited about how much it's made. I'll go on holiday with my wife. I'll also invest it. Of course the money is wonderful but what has delighted me more than anything is knowing I have found a little piece of history."

He recalled yesterday how he had asked the local farmer for permission to practise his new pastime in his field. "He laughed and said, 'If you find any gold coins, we'll split them 50-50'."

The British Museum is keen to acquire the collection, but must raise the £141,850. It expects to approach bodies such as the National Art Collections Fund for help.

Arms inquiry judge picked for new post

Sir Richard Scott, the judge chairing the arms-for-Iraq inquiry, has been chosen by the Lord Chancellor for the new post of head of civil justice. Sir Richard, 61, who is finalising his 2,000-page inquiry report, will undertake the job as well as his present post of Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court. His salary of £110,157 will not be increased.

The new post was recommended by Lord Woolf in his interim report on civil justice. The idea was to raise the status of the civil courts by appointing a senior judge to oversee reforms and co-ordinate practice in the High Court and county courts. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, said: "The Vice-Chancellor will be able to provide the leadership and authority required to carry forward the reforms which are required to improve the civil justice system."

Law Report, page 36

Poll backs assembly

Ulster Unionist hopes of setting up an elected assembly in Northern Ireland received an important boost yesterday when an opinion poll found that 70 per cent of people in the Province supported the proposal. As Sinn Féin reiterated its opposition to the plan at its first joint meeting with the British and Irish Governments, the Ulster Unionists heralded the poll as a vindication of their stance.

Prison chains removed

The Prison Service last night removed the chains from a woman inmate being treated for AIDS in a London hospital. The woman, aged 34, had been held on remand in Holloway jail accused of supplying heroin. The decision was made as the Home Office prepares for an imminent announcement which will outline an easing of the guidelines under which women prisoners are shackled while attending hospital.

Abduction charge

Andrew Poundley, 31, a disc jockey, was remanded in custody yesterday by magistrates at Oldham, Greater Manchester, charged with the abduction of Rosemary McCann, five, from her home. No application for bail was made during his three-minute appearance and reporting restrictions were not lifted. The girl was still missing last night despite extensive searches by police.

Body flown home

A private funeral will be held this weekend for Celine Figard, the French student who was raped, killed and dumped at a layby near Worcester. Her body, accompanied by her father Bernard, was flown home to France yesterday where the funeral is expected to take place on Saturday. She was last seen alive accepting a lift from a lorry driver at the Chieveley service station on the M4 in Berkshire.

West appeal hearing

A rare sitting of the full Court of Appeal is to decide in March whether Rosemary West should be granted leave to appeal against her ten murder convictions. The Lord Chancellor's Department said the decision was made because of the high degree of public interest. Lawyers acting for West, who is serving her life terms at Durham jail, lodged her grounds for appeal last month.

Sacked woman wins

An accountant who was sacked after being diagnosed as having cancer while she was pregnant yesterday won her case for unfair dismissal. Richard Fulwell, Tee-Gee Snacks's finance director, told the tribunal that he was advised that Carol Coe, 30, of Hyde, Greater Manchester, had no right to return to work because she had been with the company for less than two years. Her award will be decided in March.

Cider claim settled

A mother of three who claims she suffered brain damage after drinking lead-polluted cider from a painted mug accepted £55,000 in an out-of-court settlement yesterday. Marian Bloom, 41, told the High Court the poisoning occurred during regular use of the mug at the Queen's Head in Stradbroke, Suffolk. Landlord Frederick Farrow and his wife Mary denied liability.

Police predict £12m bypass protest bill

BY TIM JONES

THE Chief Constable of Thames Valley said yesterday that the cost of policing the Newbury bypass protest over the next two years could reach £12 million and would affect police operations throughout the area. Charles Pollard has told David Maclean, a Home Office Minister, that, without extra government money, the force would face intolerable strains.

At a press conference Mr Pollard said: "Essentially, we are being asked to police from our force resources what is a national event. But there is a limit to the resources and manpower we have."

Mr Pollard added: "We estimate the additional burden for us over the two-year period could amount to £12 million, but that is maybe an underestimate. Police forces expect unusual events

to put a strain on their resources but Thames Valley and Hampshire are faced with the possibility of a conflict that could go on for more than two years, sucking in men and draining resources which otherwise would be used for normal policing."

Meanwhile, a huge increase in the number of police guards yesterday enabled contractors to complete their first full day's work since the battle of the Newbury bypass began ten days ago. Protected by more than 300 guards and scores of police, the chain saws buzzed all day on two sites as dozens of trees were felled.

More than 30 people were arrested and some protesters, who had been arrested earlier in the week, said they were ignoring bail conditions by revisiting the site.

Outcry over Maguire's cash award

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs and terrorist victims spoke out yesterday against a £13,500 compensation award to a convicted bomber, Donna Maguire, for injuring her ankle when she tripped on a pavement.

David Wilshire, Tory MP for Spelthorne, called a Commons motion calling on the Government to end the "unfairness" of current compensation schemes and to ensure that convicted terrorists could not "financially exploit the state they were seeking to destroy".

The motion added: "While the ankle damage made it impossible for the convicted terrorist to wear high-heeled shoes and to dance, it did not prevent her attempting to murder five soldiers or act as an IRA spy on military installations."

Last night he pointed out that the parents of a child murdered in the Warrington bomb blast had been awarded

only £7,500, and victims with multiple injuries in the 1992 London Baltic Exchange explosion received £10,000.

Jacques Arnold, Tory MP for Gravesend, said: "A person who is agile enough to take part in various terrorist activities is about the last person to be compensated for this kind of thing. The money would have been better spent laying the paving stones."

Ms Maguire, 29, sued the Department of the Environment claiming she injured herself falling in Newry, Co Down, in 1985. In June last year she was convicted of the attempted murder of five soldiers at Quebec Barracks in Osnabruck, Germany, in 1989. She was released almost immediately as she had spent six years in custody awaiting trial.

Yesterday the parents of 12-year-old Tim Parry, killed by a 1992 bomb in Warrington, Cheshire, pointed out that she



Maguire won £13,500 for pavement trip

had received almost twice as much as their £7,500 compensation. Colin Parry said: "It is absolutely disgusting. It confirms my feeling that wrongdoers are better looked after than those who suffer the consequences."

Among the Baltic Exchange victims, ship broker Jeffrey

Blum, 42, who needed extensive brain surgery and whose right arm had to be rebuilt, refused to say how much he was awarded but said: "I am staggered. I think it is a nonsense. I do not think anyone should be barred from claiming if they have tripped and injured themselves. She is a human being irrespective of her political affiliations. But if some compensation is necessary, and that is a question in itself, why so much?"

A former taxi driver, Alan Ray, 38, has still received no compensation for a broken hand and multiple wounds to his arms, neck and head. He was off work for 14 months. Now a trainee train driver, he said: "I am disgusted. She complains she can't jog, but the IRA's victims can't dance or sing now."

Raymond Fayers, 47, a bank security guard, received £7,500 after his finger was left twisted by the City blast. He said: "What does it mean, she can't do a jig any more?"

A heavyweight PC package at a lightweight price.

£1,159
(£1,391.20 incl. delivery + VAT)

Get down to business with the Dell Dimension P75t PC package. It's unbeatable. It comes pre-loaded and ready-to-run with Microsoft® Windows and Office '95 software. So it's quick and hassle free, making it ideal for the office environment. And, as you'd expect from Dell, you get all the back-up you need from our Openline™ Hardware Technical Support available throughout the life of your system. Call us today on 01344 720000. You simply won't find a better value business solution.

Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

- INTEL 75MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
- 8MB EDO RAM
- 3.5" DISKETTE DRIVE
- 850MB HARD DRIVE
- INTEGRATED 64-BIT PCI LOCAL BUS VIDEO WITH 1MB VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR
- 4 PCI AND 3 ISA EXPANSION SLOTS (1 SHARED)
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- QUAD SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
- MICROSOFT OFFICE 95
- MICROSOFT WINDOWS 95
- DELL MOUSE/KEYBOARD

01344 720000
Between 9am and 5pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Saturdays

Dell is a registered trademark of the Dell Computer Corporation Ltd (1992). Intel, Intel Inside Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, Office 95 and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. Delivery is charged at £25 + VAT per system. Prices correct at £1.95. Dell Direct is not available in Scotland or Ireland. The photograph shown may not always match the actual product. Prices quoted refer to standard configuration only. The price listed reflects the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. In countries with other manufacturers, numbers are measured using the CMT size actual viewing area is approximately 1" less. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Midway House, Western Road, Blandford, Dorset BA11 1PH. Offer available for a limited period only.

Prince Michael of Kent looks on as campaigner disrupts centenary commemoration in Coventry

Anti-car protester strips at cathedral service

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A LATTER-DAY Lady Godiva barred her all in Coventry Cathedral yesterday in protest at a service to commemorate the centenary of the motor car. With Prince Michael of Kent and an array of dignitaries from the motor industry sitting a few feet away, the woman sprang from a side aisle and cast off her coat to expose a body daubed with anti-car slogans.

Before police and stewards rushed to cover her dignity, she shouted: "In the spirit of Lady Godiva, I am here to mourn the death of my mother and the 17 million people killed directly by the motor car."

The 5ft 10in protester declared herself to be Angel Koyanti, but it was later discovered that she is Lucy Pearce, a dedicated anti-roads campaigner with a string of aliases.

Her hatred of cars stems from the death of her mother in a road accident in 1965. She now describes herself as a worshipper of Mother Earth, and lives with other "eco-warriors" in an encampment beside the proposed A30 route near Exeter.

Ms Pearce, 35, said she had been born in Oxfordshire and educated in Bedfordshire before going to Exeter University, where she was known as Rose. She then ran an all-



John Petty, cathedral provost, invites protesters in

women theatre company known as Bearded Women before changing her name and becoming an activist in 1991.

She and her accomplice, Theo Simon, 38, were released after being questioned by police. Wearing a plastic police-issue suit, she said: "I have written numerous letters to MPs and newspapers and it seemed that exposing my body was the only avenue left open to me. We had been in the Chapel of Industry at the cathedral and suddenly thought that we must do something."

"I wanted to look myself to the pulpit and Theo was there to help me do it. The aim was to stop the service. But someone managed to get their hand between my neck and the lock. I still managed to say all I had

to say." She had urged the congregation "to remember the mothers left childless, the orphaned children, our brothers, sisters, fathers and friends. Those paralysed and maimed. The epidemic of asthmatic children."

Ms Pearce added: "I suppose my mother's death must have had something to do with me getting involved in this cause, but it is also because my sister's little boy suffers from asthma although they live in a suburban area and he is not even two yet. I believe his asthma is because of car fumes."

Before the service 100 protesters had gathered outside, dressed as angels, bishops and pantomime horses. The provost, John Petty, invited some of them into the cathedral.

The Right Reverend Simon Barrington-Ward, Bishop of Coventry, defended the service, which had been initiated by Coventry councillors. The proceedings began with an 1897 Daimler Autocar being driven up the aisle and ended with an electric Peugeot 106, also made in Coventry, gliding out of the West Door.

"I thought the disruption inside the cathedral was a pity, but you cannot stop demonstration; it is part of people's freedom. I am only sorry that they couldn't have done it with a little more dignity and restraint," the Bishop said.

In a sermon on the parable of the two cars, he said that the Daimler represented the thanksgiving for all the benefits the car had bestowed, and the Peugeot man's penitence for the way it had been misused. Prince Michael gave a short reading.

Ms Pearce's friends at Allercombe camp in Devon said the woman they know as Angel Quercus — a shared tribal surname — had discussed a Coventry protest over a month ago. Scarlett Quercus said: "She was making a point with nudity just as Lady Godiva did. We felt it was completely sick to celebrate a machine which has cost countless lives and sicker still to hold the service at the same cathedral where the funeral of Jill Phipps [the animal rights protester] was held."



Lucy Pearce casts off her fake-fur coat in Coventry Cathedral to reveal slogans condemning the car

Man is guilty of assault on vandals

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUSINESSMEN who grabbed two boys he suspected of breaking his greenhouse windows was found guilty of assault yesterday.

David Verney, 54, heard the sound of breaking glass as he was hoeing a rosebed and jumped into his Range Rover to give chase from his moated home in Uckington, Gloucestershire.

Justices in Coleford were told that Mr Verney, a former Army and County rugby player, drove two miles to lie in wait behind a bush for the boys.

One of the pair, from a council estate four miles away, claimed he was grabbed and hit in the neck three times and bundled into the Range Rover. The other said Verney punched him on the jaw.

Verney, who rejected an offer of a caution or a blind over, denied being in a temper but admitted that possibly he "did not behave very well".

The businessman, whose wife is a JP, denied common assault and criminally damaging a shirt belonging to one of the boys. He was convicted of assaulting Wayne O'Shea, 14, but cleared of the allegation against Craig Walsh, 13. He was ordered to pay costs of £200 and £40 compensation for the shirt.

After the case, Verney said: "I am bitterly disappointed by the outcome. My solicitor has asked me to think it over for 24 hours but my immediate reaction is to pursue it to the highest possible level regardless of cost."

"These two pieces of glass have already cost me £1,600." He said he had taken a close interest in similar cases. "I can only conclude that the view taken by the magistrates in my case is not in the public interest."

Doctor jailed for manslaughter can resume practice

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DOCTOR jailed after stabbing her husband's mistress to death was yesterday given permission to resume her career when she leaves prison, subject to undergoing retraining.

Julia Wright, 48, a mother of four, stabbed Fiona Wood 17 times in the face and chest with a kitchen knife before slashing her face another 18 times.

Wright flew into an uncontrollable rage after discovering that Mrs Wood, who was married with two children, was having an affair with her husband, Jeremy, also a doctor. She was a woman who had loved "not wisely but too well", the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee was told.

Wright was sentenced in December 1994 to four years' imprisonment after she pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. She bowed her head as Paul Honigsmann, for the GMC, said: "This is a tale of a woman who loved her husband and her children. When she thought she was going to lose both, she was driven



Wright stabbed her husband's mistress

towards the edge of endurance." After the killing Wright, covered in blood, drove to the Nuffield hospital where her husband was working and confessed.

Wright later told police: "I hit her, then I hit her, then I hit her, that evil and wicked woman." Simon Taylor, QC, for Wright, said: "She feels considerable remorse and is very sad that her actions have led to disrepute for her profession. You may take the view we cannot have convicted killers on the register. But she recognises in due course she will have to provide for herself financially."

"You must consider she has been assessed by psychiatrists and found to be of no further danger to the public, including her husband and his girlfriend. The public is sophisticated. It understands the notion of people committing crimes when they are ill."

Wright, formerly from Woking, Surrey, has not practised medicine for 16 years, having given it up to raise her children, now aged 16, 14, 10 and 8. But she was anxious to be allowed to resume her career when she comes out of prison, possibly later this year.

Sir Donald Irvine, chairman of the committee, told her: "Your registration will be suspended for a period of 12 months. Should you consider a return to medical practice you should use your time to prepare a programme of rehabilitation and retraining."

Sir Donald said that she would have to return to the committee in due course to show what steps she had taken towards the implementation of its recommendations. Wright killed Mrs Wood in May 1994 after spotting her wearing what she called a triumphant expression when she was with her husband.

I'm just small fry, says hot-dog man blamed for killing tree

By ROBIN YOUNG

A COLLEGE at Cambridge University won councillors' backing yesterday to evict a fast-food vendor from his pitch, claiming that the oily smoke from his cooking killed a tree and possibly two shrubs.

The dons of Emmanuel College had complained that the fumes from Ray Peckett's hot-dog and hamburger stand were inappropriate and offensive to Emmanuel Street which runs beside the college.

When the city council suggested a compromise, Stephen Brooker, the college bursar, replied: "We remain convinced that the effluvia of oleaginous fumes has killed at least one tree and probably

two shrubs in the garden slip over the wall from the stall."

Yesterday the city council's environmental health and protection committee voted to move Mr Peckett from his site, but the stallholder does not intend to give up without a fight. He has proposed four sites to the council, and his supporters, including students at Emmanuel College, are signing a petition on his behalf.

Mr Peckett's stall offers drinks, burgers, hot dogs, bacon rolls and chicken salad at prices between 30p and £2.20. Chips and onions have never been on the menu because of the fumes they would cause, and the

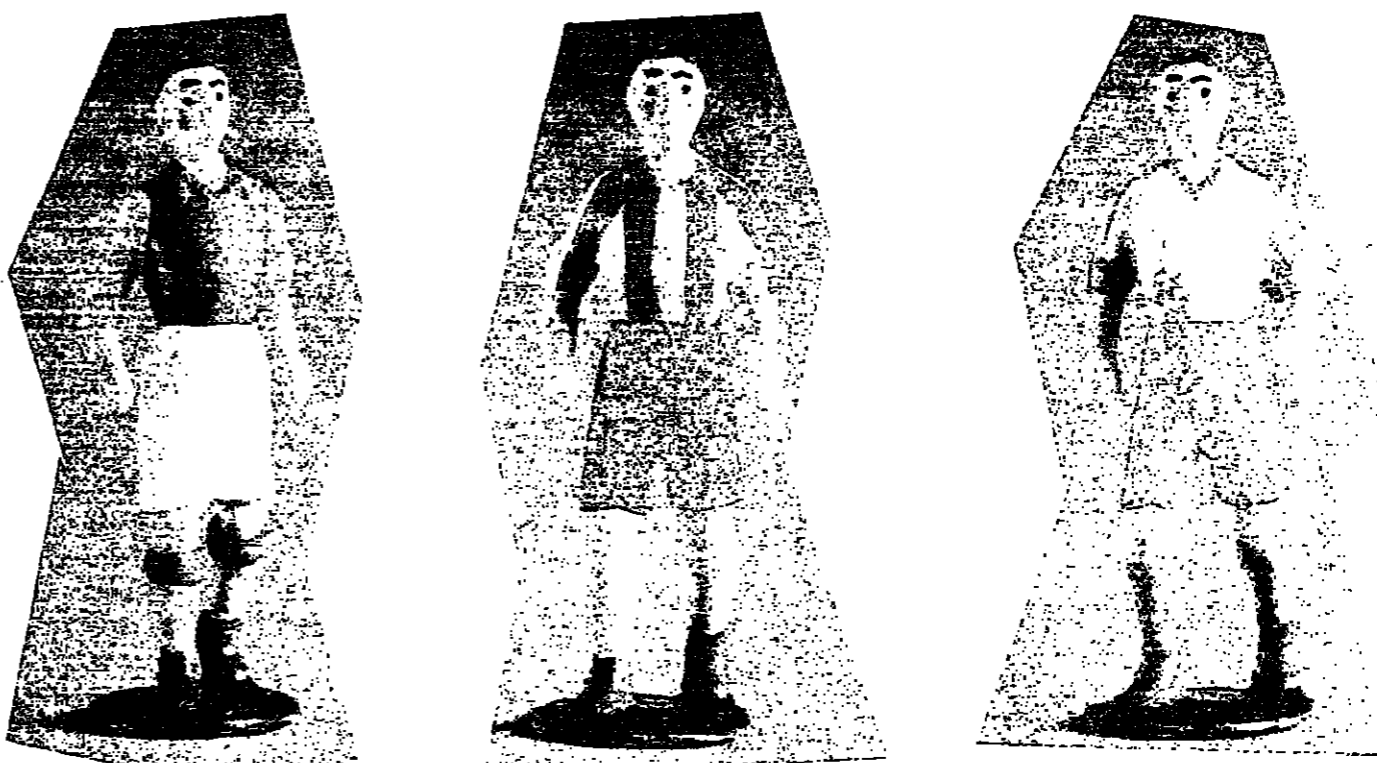
stallholder says that he spent £5,000 last year on new hotplates to reduce the amount of smoke.

Mr Peckett has been paying £1,730 a year to rent his pitch, and claimed that the college had treated him unfairly. He said the plants were more likely to have been killed by traffic pollution or by last summer's drought than by any fumes from his stall.

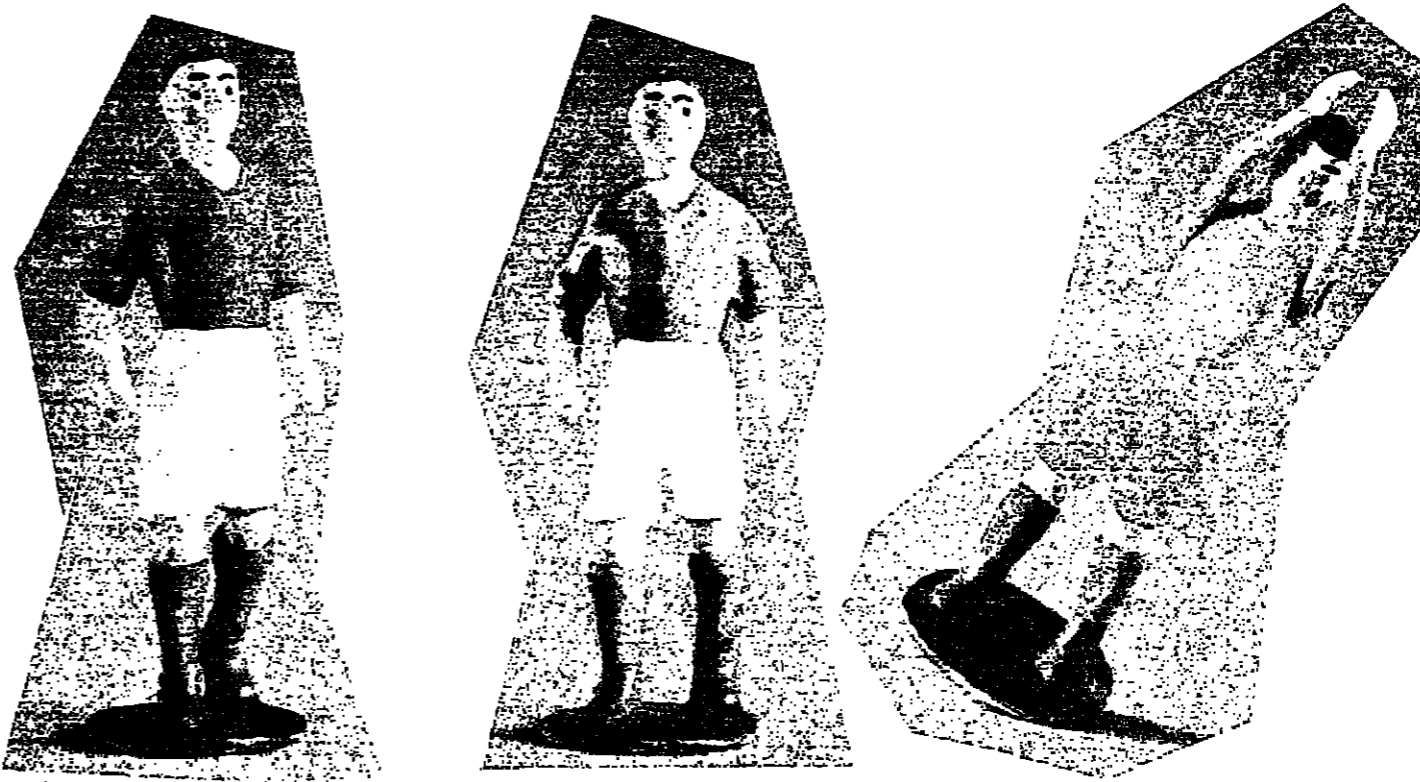
"It's a case of Big Brother trying to push the little man out," he said. "We smell their cooking too."

"I do not think they are very happy about a lot of their students coming to us for their dinner rather than having it in college."

With all these national players



wanting your electricity business



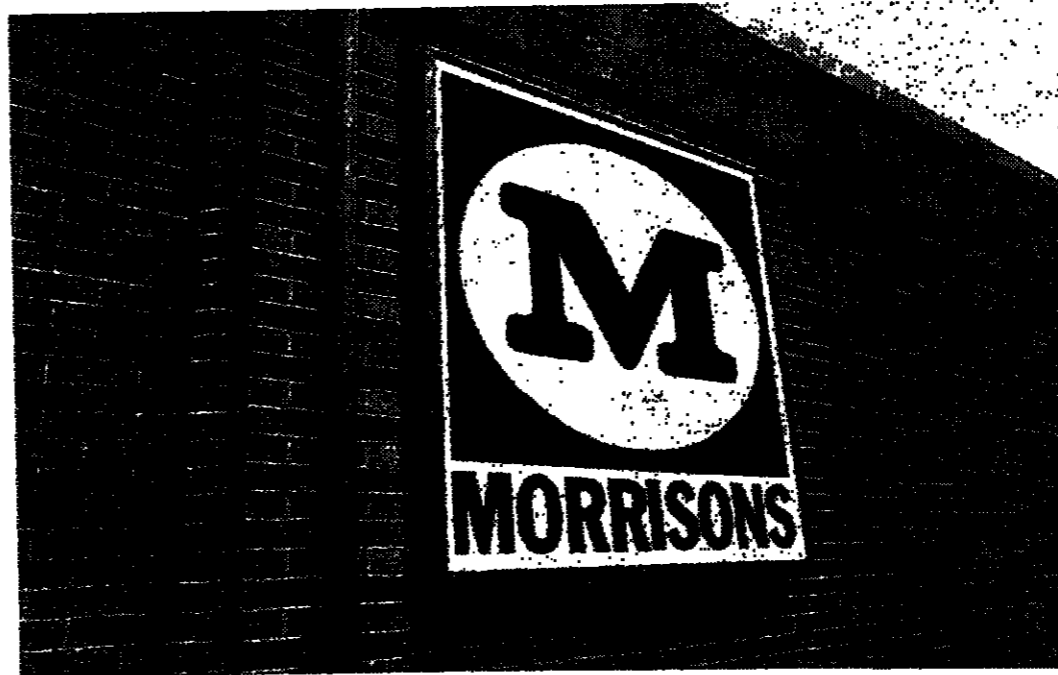
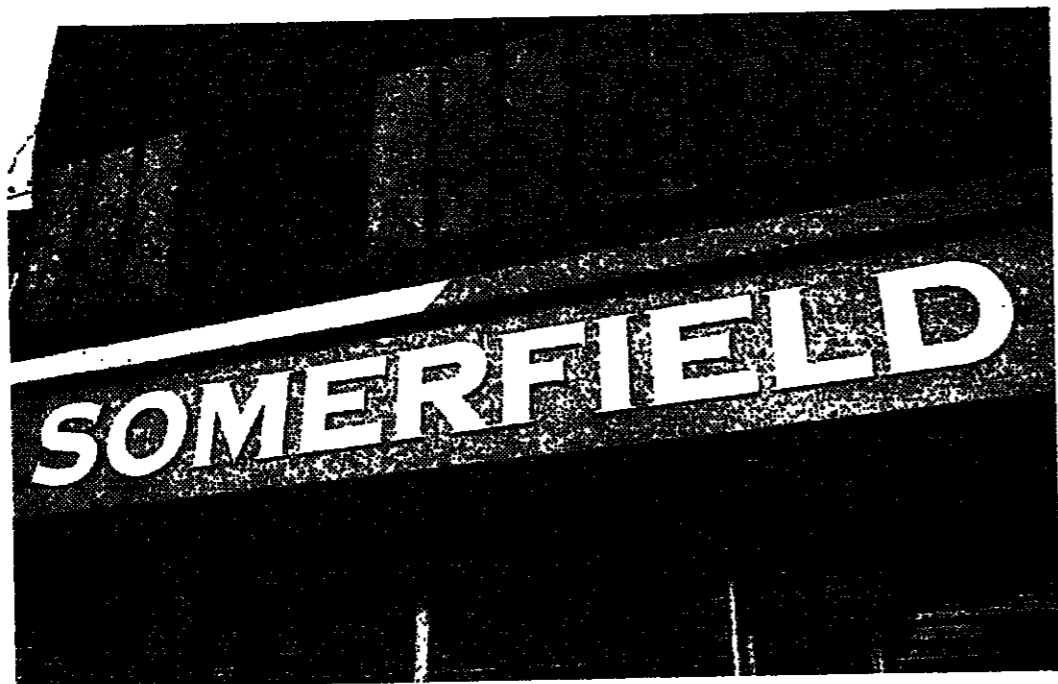
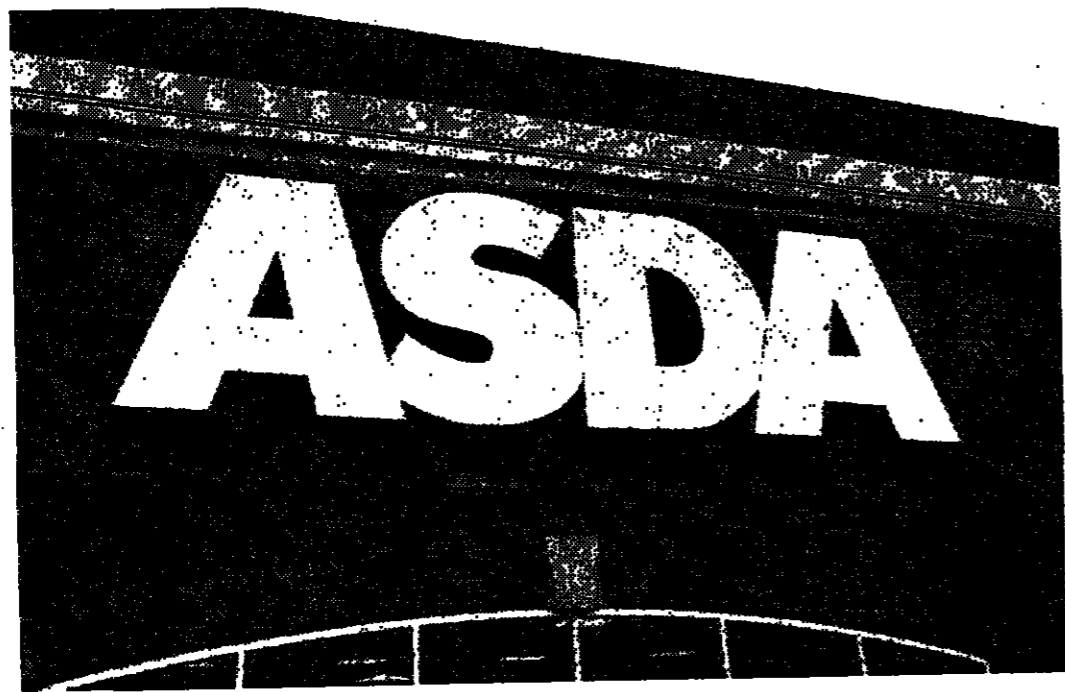
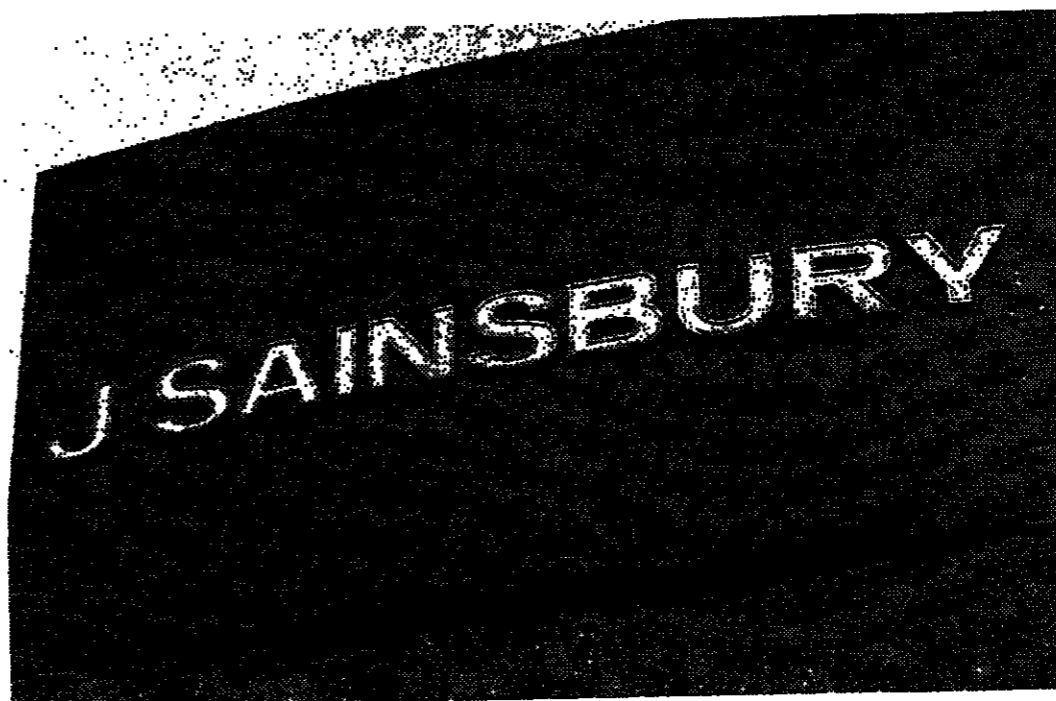
you'd better get on to one that saves

☐ I want the most competitive price ☐ I want a named account manager
☐ I want revised bills which have been carefully checked
☐ I currently qualify as a 100kW customer
☐ I want to know how to get a competitive quotation

Name (Mr/Ms) _____
London Electricity's a success 18-21 Mykonos Rd, Wokingham, RG40 3AP, Tel: 01235 741111

GET ON TO LONDON LONDON ELECTRICITY

Can you serve British beef
with confidence?
You have only to read the signs.



Your favourite supermarkets are usually in hot competition. On one thing, though, they're in total agreement. British beef.

Just as they have always sold it with the utmost confidence, so they continue to do so.

Roasts, steaks, stews, mince, burgers, pies or sausages, whatever takes your fancy, you can share their confidence.

Rest assured, your trust in their standards is trust well founded.

What's more, with the supermarkets you see here tempting you with some tasty offers, there's never been a better time to tuck in and enjoy.

All in all, the signs could hardly be more reassuring.

BRITISH
MEAT

Beef

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, P.O. BOX 44, MILTON KEYNES MK6 1AX.

مكثا من الأصل

mark at
only
new
model

0500
333
600

Virgin contends rules were broken when Channel 5 television licence was awarded

Remark at party may delay new TV channel

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN OFF-THE-CUFF remark made at a children's party by the television executive Greg Dyke to a rival bidder for the Channel 5 television licence could scupper the launch of Britain's fifth terrestrial channel.

Virgin Television, part of Richard Branson's entertainment empire, yesterday launched a legal challenge in the High Court against the Independent Television Commission's decision last October to award the fifth channel licence to Channel 5 Broadcasting (CSB), a consortium led by Mr Dyke and Lord Hollick, the socialist millionaire.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, acting for Virgin Television, told Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Turner that Virgin's licence application was turned down on quality grounds — became suspicious about the way the licence was being awarded when Jeremy Fox, one of its executives, bumped into Mr Dyke at a children's party at Alexandra Palace in north London.

The event was held five months after the deadline for submitting Channel 5 bids. "He [Mr Fox] was told by Mr Dyke that they had funded their application up to £200 million and had to put in

a further £100 million," Mr Scrivener said.

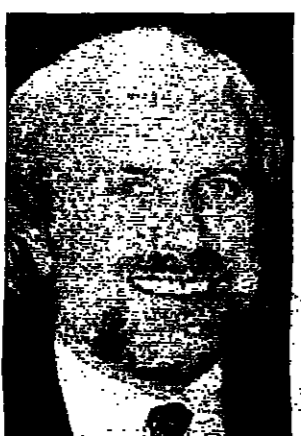
Lord Justice Henry pointed out that it was a "disputed conversation", but Mr Scrivener explained that he mentioned it to indicate what had started Virgin's challenge.

Virgin, whose £22,002,000 cash bid for the licence was identical to CSB's, alleges that letters from the commission to CSB asking for "clarification" of its bid prompted CSB to add £100 million to its business plan. Mr Scrivener submitted documents to show that the commission allowed CSB to sign a new shareholders' agreement to this effect more than four months after the application was submitted.

Mr Scrivener said that this was "contrary to the rules", which state that the applicant "can only enhance his application after it has been submitted if there is a material change affecting the applicant (such as a change in its corporate structure) and then only if the ITC decides such change is not unfair to other applicants".

Mr Scrivener also challenged the commission's decision that Virgin's programme proposals did not pass its quality threshold. He told the court that on October 19 last year, commission members met to consider papers prepared by staff which recommended that Virgin pass the quality test. "The members met again on October 25 when there were no fresh papers to consider and held that Virgin had failed the quality threshold," Mr Scrivener said. "Virgin claim this decision was legally unreasonable."

The two other unsuccessful bidding consortia, New Century Television and UKTV, were both refused permission to bring their own applications for judicial review against the commission, but yesterday sought to make submissions at Virgin's case. The case continues today.



Dyke: his comment raised questions

Survey finds third of Surrey women abused

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MIDDLE-CLASS women are as likely to be victims of domestic violence as those from the working class, according to a survey published yesterday.

A third of 434 women questioned in Surrey, the county with the highest divorce rate, had been attacked in their homes. Almost a quarter had been beaten up, 9 per cent had had their lives threatened and 5 per cent had been attacked with a weapon.

Nicola Dominy, research assistant at the Roehampton Institute which conducted the

study with Surrey County Council, said: "Surrey is a largely middle-class area and this study proves that domestic violence affects all classes and ethnic groups."

The study found that in addition to the physical injuries, domestic violence caused 16 per cent of women to live in constant fear, 6 per cent were suicidal and 7 per cent suffered depression.

Almost two thirds of the victims had not sought help because they were afraid, ashamed or considered it a private matter.



Richard Branson donned Moroccan dress yesterday to publicise his attempt to fly round the world in a balloon

Branson set for 'my best adventure'

By OLIVER AUGUST

RICHARD BRANSON arrived in Marrakesh yesterday and declared his attempt to fly round the world by balloon would be "the most fantastic adventure I have ever embarked on".

The Virgin chairman joked about the training he and his two fellow balloonists still have to complete: "There is no other exhibition on earth that's ever taken off with people who have had to train for desert landings, arctic landings, jungle landings and sea landings."

Before leaving Britain he sent a good luck card to Henk Brink, his Dutch challenger. Mr Branson said: "I sent him a telegram wishing him all the best and telling him whoever wins has to pay for the drinks and the party to celebrate."

The heated and pressurised Virgin Global Challenger capsule is being assembled and tested in a Marrakesh military base before being taken to the launch site in the Atlas mountains by the Moroccan Army later this week.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



Britain's film star

Robert Crampton meets Andrew Macdonald, movie hit man, in the Magazine

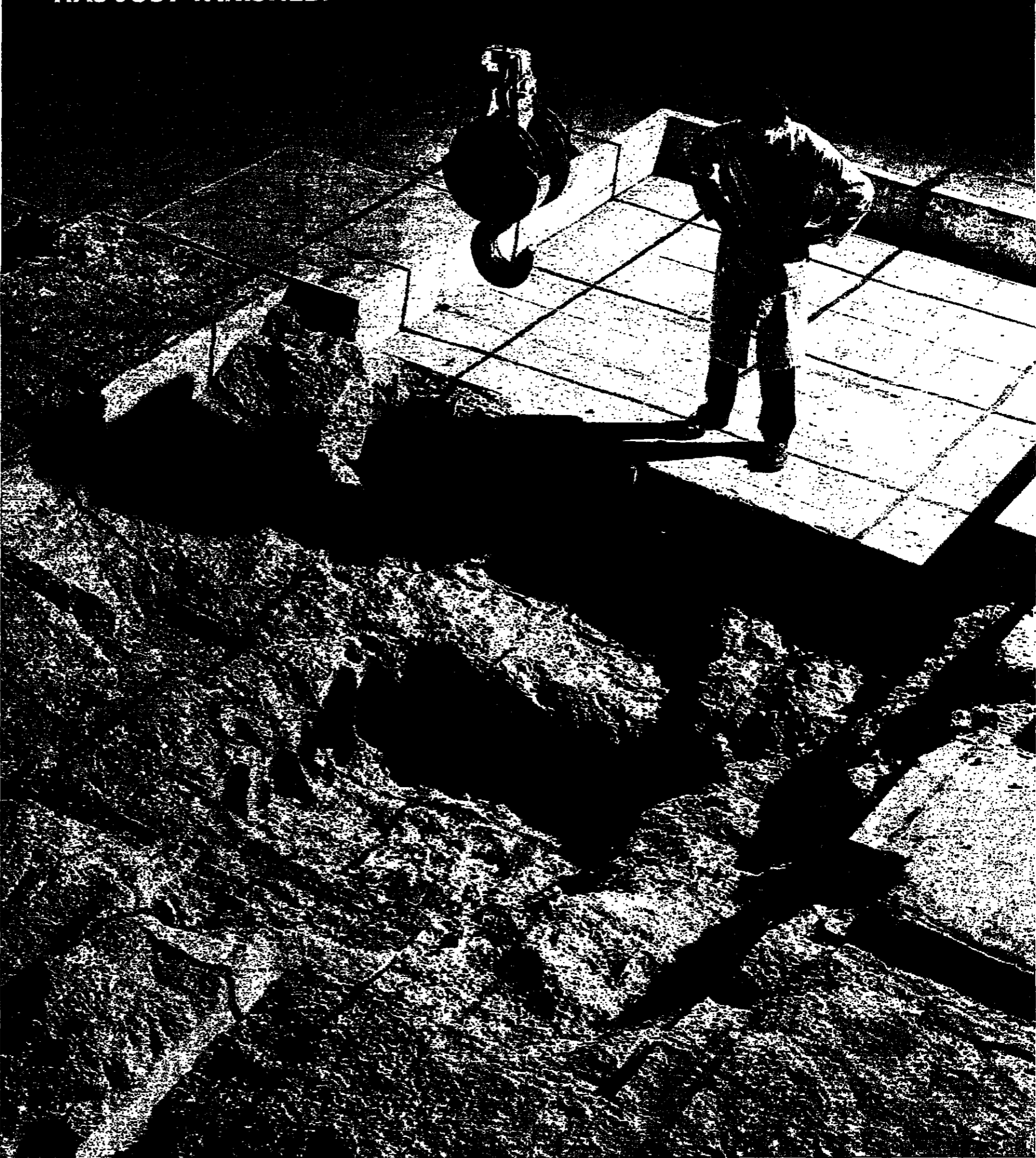
Have teenager, will travel

How to have fun on a family holiday, in Weekend

PLUS

Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

ONE OF BRITAIN'S NUCLEAR REACTORS HAS JUST VANISHED.



It used to stand here and now it's gone. For thirty years, the Universities of Manchester and Liverpool's research reactor stood on this spot. But not anymore.

The mind boggles. Who could walk off with 500 tonnes of nuclear reactor?

Who would have such technology, and know-how? There's only one possible answer. Yes, it was us.

The 'hot' reactor core was cooled and we took it apart. The radioactive fuel elements

were packed in 20 tonne steel flasks and sent to be reprocessed.

From the core to the outer shielding, the reactor was taken to bits and components disposed of safely in the appropriate waste storage facilities.

Even the building has been dismantled and the two acre site will soon be available for commercial or industrial development.

BNFL is currently involved in many decommissioning projects around the world,

involving reactors, fuel production plants, reprocessing plants, storage ponds and silos, and the recovery of radioactive materials for safe storage.

These facilities - very different from one another - all need to be decommissioned safely, just as the Universities' Reactor has been. Decommissioning this reactor was something some people might think couldn't be done. The people who did it are BNFL. To find out more about what we do and

how we do it, please come and see us at the Sellafield Visitors Centre in Cumbria.

Or if you would like to receive further information, please write to Corporate Communications, BNFL, Risley Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS.



Where science never sleeps

CAR INSURANCE

Looking for the
LOWEST
premium?



Exclusive
Road Atlas
FREE
with every
quote

PHONE NOW

PHONE
FREE

**0500
333
600**

TO CLAIM
YOUR FREE
ROAD ATLAS
QUOTE REF
9219
IMMEDIATELY
ON GETTING
THROUGH

LINES ARE OPEN
8am-9pm WEEKDAYS
8am-2pm SATURDAYS



Decided by one of the UK's leading insurance covering over 10 million motorists
Dial Direct Insurance Services Ltd
is a subsidiary of the National Insurance and General Insurance Corporation plc
Not available in Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.

BRITISH
MEAT

Organisers challenge politicians over threats of wider curbs on satellite coverage

Call for £5 sports levy on BBC licence fee

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
AND JOHN GOODBODY

A FORMER Tory sports minister called yesterday for a £5 "sports levy" to be added to the TV licence fee to counter the growing competition from satellite broadcasters in covering top events.

Speaking at a London conference on the future of televised sport, Robert Atkins suggested that the levy, which would raise an additional £100 million a year, could create a new sports channel, jointly owned by the BBC and ITV, expanding their sports coverage.

The plan received a mixed response at the conference attended by more than 150 broadcasters, sports administrators and MPs. The event, organised by the national governing bodies of football, basketball, cricket, rugby union and by British Sky Broadcasting, was characterised by a series of clashes and debate was often heated.

Labour and Conservative MPs used the platform to accuse senior sports administrators of being swayed by financial greed in selling television rights to the satellite network BSkyB, partly owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. They demanded that eight listed sports events should be protected for coverage only by the BBC and ITV.

Leading figures in sport countered that it was insulting to suggest that the sports



BSkyB filming the England rugby team in training yesterday. Mr Atkins said that a levy could create a sports channel to be operated jointly by BBC and ITV

bodies should not be allowed to decide whether events should be covered by terrestrial or satellite stations. Sports bodies are united in opposing any extension to the eight listed events which currently cannot be shown on a pay-per-view basis, although they can be on a subscription channel such as BSkyB.

The listed events, which were reduced to eight by the

Government in 1991, are the Olympics, the Derby, the Grand National, Wimbledon finals, Test matches in England, the football World Cup finals, the FA Cup and Scottish Cup finals. Some MPs want to extend the list to include events such as the Five Nations rugby union championship and the Ryder Cup and the Open Championship in golf. Nick Hawkins, chair-

man of the Tory backbench sports committee, said: "We have to make sure we represent all electors."

Trevor Phillips, commercial director of the Football Association, which has recently sold the rights for the FA Cup for £125 million to a combination of ITV and Sky, said that during the 1980s the two terrestrial channels "operated as a cartel." Terry Blake, the

marketing manager of the Test and County Cricket Board, said: "Since 1994, we have doubled our exposure to 600 hours of cricket on television and trebled our income."

That money had been used to help to develop the grass roots of the game, he said.

David Elstein, the head of programming for BSkyB, said: "The list of restricted

events is an anachronism. The amount of sport on British television since Sky Sports was launched in April 1991 has quadrupled. Sky is now showing more than 9,000 hours every year — but only about 1 per cent of that has been transferred from terrestrial channels."

Last night the Department of National Heritage said Mr Atkins's levy plan would pose

"all sorts of practical difficulties".

John Major said this month that curbs on satellite screening were being considered.

Will Wyatt, the managing director of BBC Television, who was not among the delegates at the conference, said yesterday: "Events of national significance should be available to everyone. They are part of our heritage."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dead man lay in flat for nine months

The body of a 73-year-old man lay undiscovered in his flat for nine months while council officers continued to send out rent arrears and eviction notices, an inquest was told yesterday. Bailiffs found the remains of Arthur Bland in Maida Vale, west London, in September 1994.

Westminster City Council has subsequently ordered full inquiries to be made six weeks after a tenant's first arrears. Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, recorded an open verdict.

Student's body is found at Oxford

The parents of a student found dead at Magdalen College, Oxford, were last night travelling from their home in Berlin. Lars Day, 20, reading politics, philosophy and economics, was president of the junior common room. He was found with a plastic bag over his head.

Body identified

The body of a woman found in woodland near Fareham, Hampshire, was that of Janet Cooper, 58, who went missing on November 26. Police said there appeared to be no suspicious circumstances.

Bus death

Beryl Hunt, 53, died from head injuries after falling in the aisle of a bus that braked suddenly to avoid a dog, an inquest at Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was told. Verdict: accidental death.

Father missing

A Railtrack executive who disappeared after leaving home to visit London by train more than a week ago is still missing. Peter Monaghan, 48, of Solihull, West Midlands, is married with four children.

Cannabis arrests

Three people were arrested when about 450 cannabis plants, worth an estimated £100,000 were seized in a raid on a "drugs factory" in Highbridge, Somerset.

Waste of time

A lifeboat sent to the aid of what was reported to be a dinghy on fire a mile off Walton on the Naze, Essex, found a bright orange wheeled bin ablaze.

Piped music

Sir Colin Davis, principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, has been elected the 32nd Pipsmoker of the Year by The Pipsmokers' Council.

CORRECTION

Finchley Children's Music Group (photograph, January 15) is trained by a group of professional musicians, not by volunteers.

Four convicted of Scream theft

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FOUR Norwegians were convicted yesterday of the theft of *The Scream* by Edvard Munch, stolen from the Oslo National Museum in 1994 and recovered with the help of Scotland Yard's art and antiques squad.

At the end of a three-month trial, the suspected mastermind Pal Enger, 28, a footballer, was sentenced by the Oslo City Court to six years and three months in prison. The four were also convicted of attempting to sell stolen property. William Asheim, 20, and Bjorn Grytdal, 26, were sentenced to four years and nine months in prison, and Jan Olsen, 50, was given two years and eight months for charges that included attempting to sell stolen property.

In the theft of *The Scream*, valued at £40 million, two thieves climbed a ladder, broke a window and made off with the painting in 50 seconds. They left a postcard saying: "Thanks for the poor security." In an undercover operation, two British officers posed as a representative of an art foundation wanting to buy the painting and a minder protecting both the buyer and his money.

They called themselves "Chuck" and "Sid" and agreed

to buy the painting for about \$500,000 (£325,000).

A meeting was set up in the car park of a motorway rest area. "Sid" and two of the thieves remained in a hotel room with the money, awaiting a phone call from "Chuck" telling him to hand over the money once he had seen the painting. "Chuck" did just that, but he also called Detective Chief Inspector John Butler, head of the arts and antiques squad at the time. Norwegian police made the necessary arrests.

Next Tuesday, BBC1 will screen an *Omnibus* programme on the case in which Enger protests his innocence.



The Scream by Edvard Munch, valued at £40m

Parish sees red over Orange

A VICAR has upset parishioners and Christian groups by approving the use of his church as an aerial for a mobile telephone company. They say they are appalled by the prospect of mobile phone users, who include drug dealers and criminals, sending their calls via a House of God.

The Rev David Wills said that if the plan for Mossley Hill parish church in Liverpool to be used by Orange was anything other than morally responsible, he would not contemplate being part of it.

and said "normal phones were used for drug deals".

In November, Mr Wills refused to allow a British Legion Remembrance Day parade to finish at the church. He would not allow "outside groups to determine what happens in the House of God".

Maureen Brindle, 52, a member of the local British Legion, said of the aerial: "It goes against everything he has said in the past about outside groups using the church. This is so hypocritical. Folk will be praying to God in the church

and above their heads the aerial on the tower will be doing the work of the Devil." Geoff Barlow, of the National Council for Christian Standards in Society, said: "I am surprised and appalled by the idea and one would hope it never becomes a reality."

Mr Wills, who urgently needs £200,000 for building work, will receive "a few thousand pounds" a year for an aerial and relay dish on the church tower if the plan is approved by the Liverpool Diocesan Council.

MARKS & SPENCER FINANCIAL SERVICES

ANNOUNCE NEW LOWER INTEREST RATES FOR ALL OUR ACCOUNT CARDHOLDERS

ACCOUNT TYPE	PAYMENT METHOD	NEW APR RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 5TH FEBRUARY 1996
BALANCES UP TO £1,000		
CHARGECARD	Direct Debit	24.8%
	Cheque/Cash	26.3%
BUDGETCARD	Direct Debit	24.8%
	Cheque/Cash	24.8%
BALANCES OVER £1,000		
CHARGECARD & BUDGETCARD	Direct Debit Cheque/Cash	19.9%

REPAYMENT TERMS: *Chargecard holders* - the minimum monthly payment is 5% of the statement balance or £10 whichever is the greater. *Budgetcard holders* - pay a minimum of £10 per month (spending limit is 25 times your monthly payment).

Written quotations are available on request from Marks & Spencer Financial Services Limited. Registered Office: Michael House, Baker Street, London W1A 1DX. Registered in England No. 1772983. A subsidiary of Marks & Spencer plc.



OFFER EXTENDED UNTIL
MONDAY 5TH FEB

1/3 OFF
SELECTED KITCHENS

Offer available while stocks last on Camberley (shown), Ashley, Sherburn, Craftsman Honey, Craftsman Cognac, Chaucer, Marlowe, Dryden, Huckleberry, Deille, Valery and Chamfort kitchens.

Example 9 unit Camberley Kitchen
WAS £539.91
NOW **£359.93**
Excluding Installation

9 UNIT KITCHEN	
1 500mm DRAWER PACK	5 1000mm HIGHLIGHT BASE UNIT
2 1000mm HIGHLIGHT BASE/SINK UNIT	6 500mm WALL UNIT
3 1000mm HIGHLIGHT BASE CORNER UNIT	7 1000mm WALL UNIT
4 600mm BUILT UNDER OVEN HOUSING	8 600mm BRIDGING UNIT
	9 1000mm WALL UNIT

All units are self-assembly. Other units available. Example includes items as stated and excludes worktops, plinths, panels, handles, sinks, taps, waste fittings, appliances and accessories.

Sizes shown are approximate. Offers subject to availability. Prices and offers may vary at B&Q stores. B&Q Depots at The Depot. See in-store for details of our price promise. All kitchens may not be displayed in all stores but can be ordered from any B&Q. The Over 60's Card cannot be used to purchase kitchen units, appliances, installation or delivery costs.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166

OPENING HOURS

Monday-Saturday Most stores 9am-6pm Sunday England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted) Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-6pm (Belfast closed). Certain store hours can vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm.

INTEREST FREE CREDIT* ON OUR NEW KITCHENS†
INCLUDING INSTALLATION AND APPLIANCES

We have 40 superb new designs from the modern to the traditional and all can be available on Interest Free Credit on purchases of £1,800 or more in one transaction, on B&Q kitchen units, appliances and installation.

Example Repayment Table:

Purchase Price	£1,800
20% Minimum Deposit	£360
Loan Value	£1,440
Repaid in 18 monthly instalments	£80
Total amount payable	£1,800

Purchase Price	IFC Period
£1,800 - £2,399.99	18 months
£2,400 or over	24 months

*IFC subject to acceptance and to UK residents only. See in-store for details. †Interest free credit available on request. Ring 0181 466 4166. Excludes kitchen units from under £200. Excludes included in the 120 day offer. Interest free credit available on request. See in-store for details. See in-store for details.

You can do it when you B&Q it!

B&Q

55 من الأول

Airline tickets and £4,000 phone bills helped to push the Duchess of York into debt

Taste for overseas trips dissipates royal bank balance

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE Duchess of York's penchant for exotic foreign trips has earned her a reputation for profligacy and proved a big drain on her finances. Only the best hotel rooms in the smartest resorts will do for the Duchess, who is known to rely on the generosity of friends and contacts to finance some of her trips.

Her most recent foreign holiday was to Australia, where she visited her sister Jane Leade in Sydney and then flew on to Melbourne to watch Thomas Muster, an acclaimed tennis player, at a practice session.

The Duchess decided to divert to Melbourne on the spur of the moment two weeks ago when she met Mr. Muster at a party during a charity trip to Qatar. She flew from the Gulf to Australia at her own expense, was given a courtesy upgrade to first class, and stayed in a five-star hotel. She returned home last week.

Although other members of the Royal Family enjoy frequent stints away from their offices, sketching holidays in Scotland attract little press interest.

The Duchess's timing can be unfortunate when her complaints that she was hard

up were published in *Hello!* last summer, the Duchess was on holiday in Bermuda with her daughters. It later emerged that the holiday was funded by Robert Stigwood, a musical impresario, who is a good friend.

The Duchess's epic break in Thailand and Indonesia after her separation from the Duke of York in 1992 is estimated to have run to six figures. She then flew on to Australia.

Between the summers of 1993 and 1994 the Duchess enjoyed six holidays, including a stint trekking on the lower slopes of Everest. That trip was partly paid for by a charity and is estimated to have cost £10,000.

The Duchess took five trips over the following 12 months including a visit to Kenya. She usually takes two skiing holidays each year, to Verbier and Klosters. But so far this year she has been absent from the slopes, reportedly to cut down spending.

In June last year, the Duchess visited Los Angeles and stayed at one of the city's most expensive hotels, the Bel Air, where rooms start at £200 with suites costing £1,800 a night.

The Duchess's shopping

proceeds is legendary: on a recent trip to New York she is said to have spent £3,000 on 20 pairs of shoes during a half-hour shopping spree. She flew to America on Concorde, which costs £5,000 for a return fare.

While she has claimed to be cutting back on unnecessary expenses, the Duchess spent £10,000 on clothes in one month last year. She chose outfits from Isabel Kristensen, a Danish designer, handbags by Arny Hindmarch and shoes from Jimmy Choo. Hindmarch bags cost between £250 and £400 and Choo's shoes about £200.

The Duchess's generosity is another cause of financial problems. When she moved into Kensington Palace, an eight-bedroom Victorian house in Kensington, Surrey, last year, she threw a champagne party for 150 people. The celebrations, which cost some £3,000, were designed to thank the decorators, removal men, builders and estate agents who had helped her to move from Romedon Lodge.

The house was completely redecorated before the Duchess moved in and the rent is an estimated £6,000 a month.

The Duchess employs a butler, driver, cook, nanny, housekeeper, dresser and a staff of three assistants in her private office. The wages bill is said to be about £32,000 a month.

Her hair is cut by Nicky Clarke, who charges £180 a session. The Duchess is, however, visiting him less frequently as an economy measure.

Membership of the Wentworth Club, her gym, and paying for personal sessions with her fitness trainer, are estimated to cost about £3,000 a year.

One of her most extravagant expenses is the telephone - a characteristic she shares with her sister-in-law, the Princess of Wales. The quarterly bill is said to be £4,000.



Work and play: the Duchess promoting Budge in New York, and in Klosters, a trip that she has forgone this year, reportedly to cut costs

Still waiting for riches from book deals

BY EMMA WILKINS AND JON ASHWORTH

THE financial affairs of the Duchess of York have fascinated the public and the press since her close relationship with her adviser was disclosed four years ago. It was John Bryan, the American business consultant, who helped the Duchess to negotiate deals in the early 1990s that were meant to secure her financial future.

Mr Bryan no longer figures in the Duchess's personal affairs. The Duchess, who gave up her publishing job when she married the Duke of York in 1986, hoped that she would make millions from her books about *Budge the Little Helicopter* after her separation in 1992. But the expected royalties have not



Bryan helped with contract negotiations

materialised, partly because of an unfavourable business contract according to a recent interview with the Duchess in *Hello!* That magazine is another lucrative source of income for the Duchess, who

has appeared ten times in photographic features. It has been forecast that *Sleepy Kids*, the company which owns the worldwide TV and merchandising rights for *Budge*, would earn about £800,000 from television and merchandising in the United States this year. The Duchess is unlikely to receive a share of more than 20 per cent, which would bring her an income this year of £160,000.

The longer-term future may be brighter. *Sleepy Kids* said it was "not outrageous" to talk of earnings of £300 million from sales in the United States over five years after a contract was signed last July to screen the *Budge* adventures on American television.

The Duchess promoted *Budge* products at Bloomingdale's department store in

New York during the lucrative Christmas shopping period.

On her separation from the Duke, the Duchess received an estimated £2 million settlement but most of the sum is in trust for their daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie.

The Duke, whose civil list payment of £249,000 is refunded to the Treasury by the Queen, earns £30,544 as a Lieutenant-Commander in the Royal Navy. Eighty per cent of his civil list income goes on staff costs, but he is said to contribute handsomely towards the costs of his children.

An estimated £10,000 a year is spent on the daughters' education and £15,000 a year is contributed towards the £72,000 cost of the Duchess's

rented home in Wentworth, Surrey.

The Duchess hopes to make more money from two books on Queen Victoria, *Travels with Queen Victoria* (1991) and *Victoria and Albert: Life at Osborne House* (1993). A film on the life of the young Queen Victoria is planned by 20th Century Fox.

Other financial plans include a deal with Bantam Doubleday Dell in New York to write two children's books about a girl called Amanda who travels around the world. The Duchess is negotiating with Tri-Star pictures for an option on her story *Heather Blaze*, the adventures of two mares with parallel but very different lives.

Elizabeth's Story, page 15
Diary, page 16



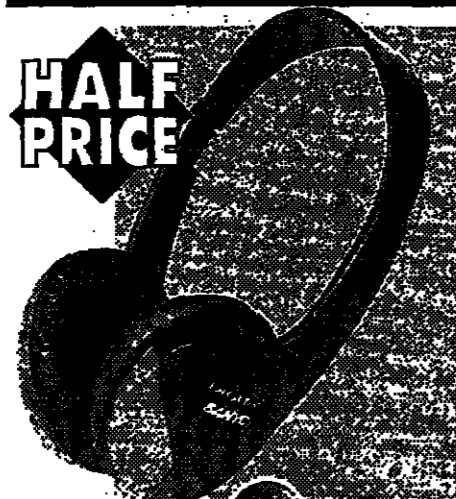
Kingsbourne, the Duchess's latest home

Dixons

ALL THESE DEALS

HALF PRICE

HEADPHONES



SANYO PH150 STEREO HEADPHONES
● Closed back style.
● Hi-Fi sound.
● Soft cushioned ear pads.
Was £19.99.

SALE PRICE
£9.99

PHILIPS 3302 STEREO HEADPHONES
INCLUDES CARRY CASE
● In-ear style.
● Ideal for personal Hi-Fi.
● One metre cord.
● Volume control.
Was £15.99.

SALE PRICE
£7.99

VIDEO TAPE

MGM E80 VIDEO TAPE 4-PACK
Audio grade
Total Separate Selling Price £15.

Dixons Deal
£6.99

AUDIO TAPE

PHILIPS CD ONE 90 AUDIO TAPE 5-PACK
Was £29.99.

SALE PRICE
£3.99

MINI SPEAKERS

KOSS SX30 ACTIVE MINI SPEAKERS
Ideal for personal Hi-Fi.
Volume control and on/off switch.
Was £29.99.

Dixons Deal
£19.99

FILM

DIXONS 24 EXP. 100 ISO FILM 3-PACK
Total Separate Selling Price £28.40.

Dixons Deal
£4.19

HALF PRICE FILM PROCESSING

24 EXPOSURES
In-store Price £4.99
£2.49

36 EXPOSURES
In-store Price £5.99
£2.99

One voucher per person. Not for use with other offers. Offer valid until 31 January 1996. Excludes all other discount using code 4 (Half Price Offer).

Dixons SALE NOW ON

OVER 350 HIGH STREET BRANCHES NATIONWIDE. TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

TELL THE HEALTH AND SAFETY PEOPLE WHERE TO GO.

If you own or manage a small business, the Health & Safety Commission want to hear from you.

We're reviewing our services to small firms, and we need your help. Our aim is to make it easy for you to work safely, healthily, efficiently and within the law.

Your views are important. Please call us on 01787 882233 and ask for your copy of our short discussion document (DDE 5) with pre-paid reply form, or complete the coupon.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Reducing Risks
Protecting People

Please send me a free copy of HSC's Short Discussion Document (DDE5)

Name _____ Position _____
Company _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel No. _____

Nature of Business _____

Send coupon to: HSE Books (Dept 616) PO BOX 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6FS.

1618/12/1

OWEN HUGHES

Court throws out woman's cash plea in vasectomy case

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN should not take for granted a lover's assurance that he cannot make her pregnant after a vasectomy, the Court of Appeal said yesterday.

It threw out a damages claim against the British Pregnancy Advisory Service by Alison Goodwill, 48, a teacher from Oxford, who became pregnant by her married lover, Mr Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Gibson allowed an appeal by the clinic against Oxford County Court's refusal last March to dismiss Mrs Goodwill's claim as being "frivolous or vexatious".

Lord Justice Gibson said he was left in no doubt that Judge Paul Clark had been wrong at the County Court not to strike out the action. He said that Mrs Goodwill, who was married with one son, but who later divorced, met Ross Mackinlay, a married man, in March 1988 and began having sex with him a month later. She had had her contraceptive coil removed after being told by Mr Mackinlay that he had undergone a vasectomy.

But in April 1989 she discovered she was pregnant and gave birth to a baby daughter in November. Later she

launched her claim against the clinic on the basis that it had failed to give adequate warning of the possibility of Mr Mackinlay's vasectomy reversing itself naturally. She claimed she suffered loss and damage because of the cost of the birth, her daughter's upbringing and loss of income.

Mr Justice Thorpe said: "A woman exploring the development of a sexual relationship with a new partner takes much on trust before experience corroborates or exposes his assurances. Her responsibility is to protect herself



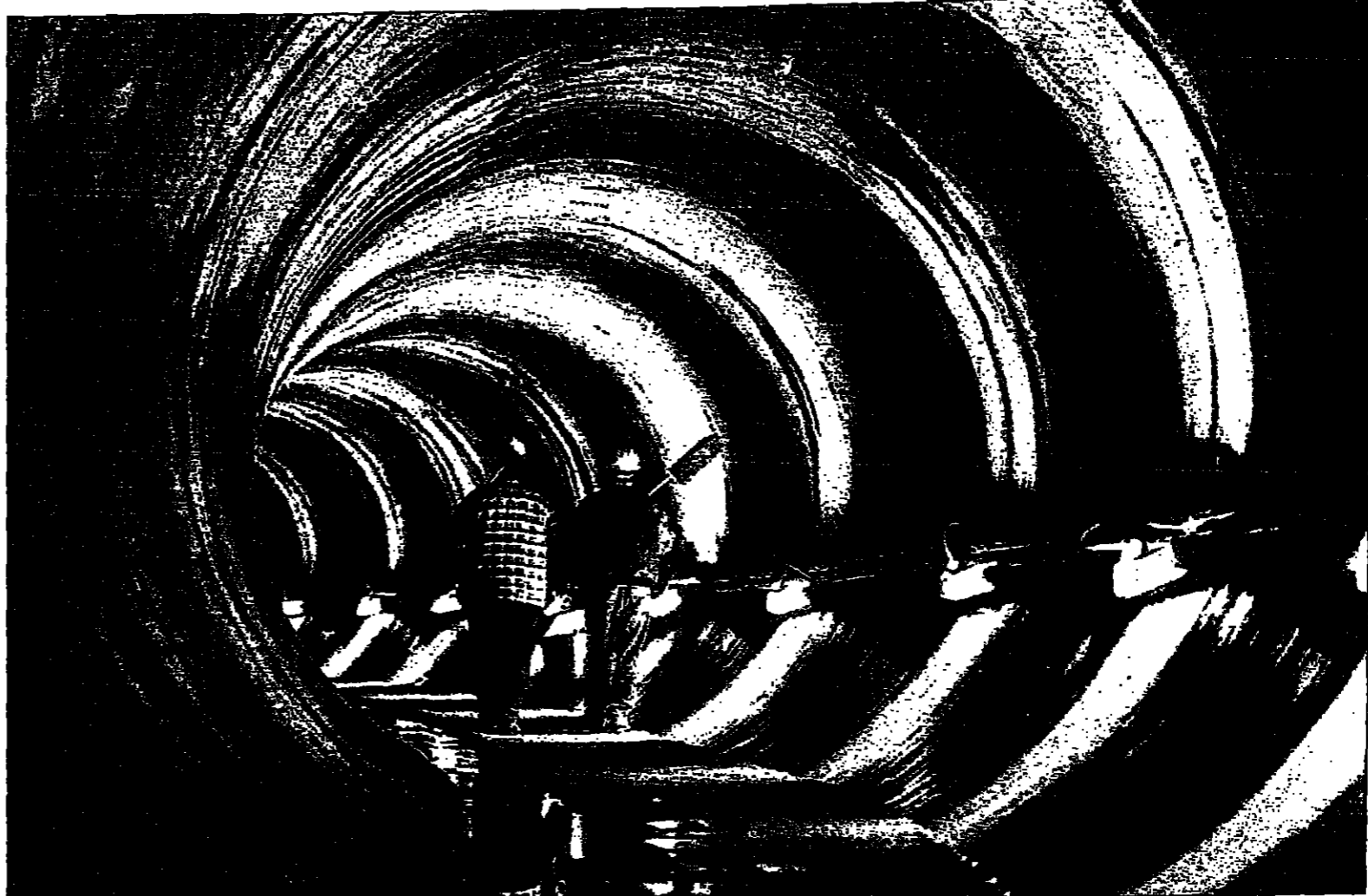
Thorpe urged women to take impartial advice

against unwanted conception and to take independent advice on whatever facts he presents."

Lord Justice Gibson said there was no way the clinic could have owed any duty of care to Mrs Goodwill or that it could have known that its advice to Mr Mackinlay would be communicated to her and relied on as a warranty of permanent infertility. "It could know nothing about the likely course of action of future sexual partners of Mr Mackinlay," the judge said. "At that time it had no knowledge of her, she was not an existing sexual partner of Mr Mackinlay but was merely, like any other woman in the world, a potential future sexual partner of his."

"It is beyond belief that in ceasing to use any contraceptive method this mature educated woman was induced by and relied on Mr Mackinlay's bare assertion to her that he could not have any more children." She had been warned by her own GP of the possible risk of Mr Mackinlay's vasectomy reversing itself and her becoming pregnant, he said. "She took that risk."

Body and Mind, page 16



Workers checking a multimillion-pound sewerage pipe before opening it to the public — literally — at the weekend. The pipe, which has been installed 20 metres below the seabed off Whitby Bay, Tyne and Wear, goes into use next month. Before then, Northumbrian Water is offering 1,500 local people the chance of a guided walk along its 3.4 kilometres after the official opening by Carol Vorderman from Channel 4's Count-

Water firm offers undersea guided tour as a pipe-opener

down programme. The sewer, which will collect contaminated storm water from the North Tyneside area and pump it out to sea, is part of a £150 million programme designed to improve bathing waters from Cleveland

to the Scottish borders. David Charlton, the project manager, said: "We decided to offer people who live here a chance to go for a walk through the pipe so they can take in at first hand how complex this work has

been. For three years they have put up with a lot of disturbance as the engineering has taken place, but many people cannot appreciate just how involved the project was because much of it has taken place underground. We thought Carol Vorderman would be the perfect person to open the tunnel because she is well known for having a good head on her shoulders and she also has a masters degree in engineering."

Science press 'got Pill story wrong'

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE press did "an excellent job" in alerting women to new information about the dangers of contraceptive pills, according to the Chairman of the Committee on the Safety of Medicines. It was the scientific press, he says, who got it wrong.

The committee caused controversy in October when it issued new advice indicating that some newer brands of the Pill had higher risks of stroke than older ones. The committee was criticised by some for issuing the advice before the data on which it was based had been published.

In a letter in *Nature*, Professor Michael Rawlins says that the committee had been concerned that the lay press might publish misleading scare stories. He says: "The consequence would have been unplanned pregnancies, an increase in the abortion rate and the various risks that these entail. In fact, the lay press did an excellent job of reporting accurately the rele-

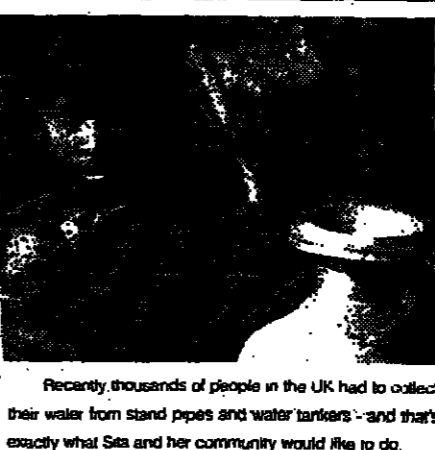
vant brands, and of passing on our message that no one need stop taking oral contraceptives. In contrast to our expectations, it was the scientific press that failed to get the facts right."

He is critical of *Nature*, which quoted incorrect figures for the absolute risk of stroke, and of the *British Medical Journal*, which also published inaccurate figures.

Once the risk estimates quoted in a *Nature* editorial are corrected, "the whole thrust of the leading article, that the CSM acted unnecessarily, becomes untenable", Professor Rawlins writes.

He defends the way the announcement was made. *Nature's* claim that sudden announcements will almost always cause panic is extraordinary, he says. "The press notice emphasised that there was no need to panic, and this was clearly explained on British television. How on earth can an announcement like this be made gradually?"

Sita would be glad to collect her water from a stand pipe



Recently thousands of people in the UK had to collect their water from stand pipes and water tankers — and that's exactly what Sita and her community would like to do.

Because, for many people in the developing world, the only sources of water are polluted ponds and rivers many miles away.

If you sponsor a child the Sita through ACTIONAID, we could work closely with the child's community to provide a permanent source of safe, clean water close to the village. Besides improving their health, it would give children time to go to school and allow mothers to earn their own income.

Please sponsor a child, and give a community and its children some of the things we take for granted.

For more information about sponsoring a child, or call 01460 61073.

I am interested in sponsoring a:

☐ Girl ☐ Boy ☐ (Please specify gender)

☐ I can't sponsor a child now, but would like a gift of:

☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £10

Please check your payment to ACTIONAID, and send to ACTIONAID, FREEPOST BS4888, Chert, Somerset TA20 1HR.

14459

Address:

Postcode:

ACTIONAID

PC WORLD SALE

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

HURRY ENDS SOON!

INTEREST FREE
OPTION
ON ALL
DESKTOP
AND
PORTABLE
PCs

SAVE £100

MULTIMEDIA PC AND COLOUR INKJET PRINTER

PACKARD BELL 905D MULTIMEDIA

- Intel Pentium 75MHz processor.
- 8Mb RAM, 850Mb hard disk.
- Quad speed CD-ROM drive, stereo soundcard & speakers.
- Over £1000 worth of software!

LEXMARK WINWRITER 150C

- 600 x 300 DPI resolution.
- 3 pages per minute print speed.
- Free CorelDraw 4.
- Was £1599.

£1499 EX VAT

SAVE UP TO £200

ON MULTIMEDIA PCs

ADVENT NEW

486DX2 66MHz processor, 4Mb RAM, 320Mb hard disk, 0.26 inch pitch, 14" SVGA monitor. Dual speed CD-ROM drive, standard 2-speaker system, Windows 95, CD-ROMs. MODEL: 425M MULTIMEDIA. HURRY LIMITED STOCKS.

£749 EX VAT

PACKARD BELL SAVE £50

Intel Pentium 75MHz processor, 8Mb RAM, 1.2 Gb hard disk. Quad speed CD-ROM drive, stereo soundcard & speakers. Fax modem/ansaphone remote controlled communications card. Radio card. Over £1,000 of software. Was £1529. MODEL: 907C MULTIMEDIA.

£1479 EX VAT

SAVE £50

ON MULTIMEDIA PCs

APPLE SAVE £50

PowerPC 603 75MHz processor, 6Mb RAM, 800Mb hard disk. Integrated 18" FST display. Quad speed CD-ROM drive, stereo soundcard & speakers. Claris Works. Was £1299. MODEL: APPLE S200C.

£1249 EX VAT

IBM SAVE £200

Intel Pentium 100MHz processor, 8Mb RAM, 1.5Gb hard disk. Quad speed CD-ROM drive, stereo soundcard & speakers. 18" MS monitor, Windows 95, Works, Money & 9 CD titles. Was £1499, £1699. MODEL: APITVA 2144-911 MULTIMEDIA.

£1599 EX VAT

APRICOT NEW 166MHz

166MHz INTEL PENTIUM PROCESSOR. Takes as fast as a Pentium 75MHz. 16Mb RAM, 1.5Gb hard disk. 14" SVGA colour monitor. Quad speed CD-ROM drive, stereo soundcard & speakers. Fax modem with On-line software. Software included: Windows 95, Lotus SmartSuite 4.1, Quicken, CorelDraw & Discoverer. Monitor upgrade available: 15" EVGA 4.165 extra £140. 17" EVGA 4.165 extra £140. MODEL: MS530 P166 PENTIUM MULTIMEDIA.

£2599 EX VAT

SAVE UP TO £100

ON PORTABLE PCs

DIGITAL NEW

Ultra slim design. 486DX2 50 MHz processor, 8Mb RAM, 9.5" dual scan colour display. Integrated business audio. MODEL: HI NOTE ULTRA CS 450. Includes PCMCIA Modem.

£1749 EX VAT

APPLE SAVE £100

603e processor 8Mb RAM, 500Mb hard disk, 10.4" dual scan colour display. Touch pad pointing device. Was £1899. MODEL: APPLE S300CS.

£1799 EX VAT

IBM NEW

486DX2 50MHz processor, 8Mb RAM, 500Mb hard disk. 10.4" dual scan colour display. Butterfly expandable keyboard. MODEL: IBM Thinkpad 701 DSG. Includes leather case.

£1849 EX VAT

SAVE UP TO £30

ON PRINTERS

LEXMARK SAVE £30

Colour Inkjet Printer. 640 x 320 DPI resolution. 3 pages per minute print speed. Free CorelDraw 4. Was £299. MODEL: WINWRITER 150C.

£269 EX VAT

EPSON SAVE £20

Colour Inkjet Printer. 720 DPI resolution. Up to 4 pages per minute. Apple Macintosh, IBM PC & Windows 95 compatible. Was £299. MODEL: STYLUS II.

£279 EX VAT

HEWLETT PACKARD SAVE £20

Colour Inkjet Printer. 640 x 320 DPI resolution. Up to 6 pages per minute print speed. Colour resolution enhancement technology. Was £299. MODEL: D559C.

£379 EX VAT

SAVE UP TO £50

ON PERIPHERALS

HARD DRIVE SAVE £20

Master. Internal fittings. IDE device. 12 milliseconds access time. Full fitting instructions. Full kit. Was £219. MODEL: L10 GBYTE.

£199 EX VAT

MODEM NEW

US Robotics Sportster V1. 28.8Kbps fax/modem. Voice mail facilities. Includes communications programs. Internet compatible, send/receive e-mail, faxes and access bulletin boards.

£99 EX VAT

CD ROM SAVE £50

Creative Labs S1a Speed. Internal fitting device. 800 kbps transfer speed. Ideal for all multimedia applications. Was: £199, £179.

£149 EX VAT

SCANNER NEW

Microtek PageWise Scanner. Quickly transforms all your paper documents into digital form. Includes full image editing & OCR software.

£149 EX VAT

10% OFF ALL BOOKS

GET THE IDEAL INFORMATION BOOK TO GO WITH YOUR PC OR SOFTWARE.

OVER 1200 SOFTWARE TITLES

COMMUNICATIONS SAVE £40

Delrina WinFax Pro V7. Send/receive/manage faxes. Specifically designed for Windows 95. View all fax and e-mail messages in one place. Windows 95 full image editing & OCR software. Usual £88.

£49 EX VAT

INTEGRATED SOFTWARE SAVE £20

Brand new version of Lotus 123. Specifically designed for Windows 95. View all fax and e-mail messages in one place. Windows 95 full image editing & OCR software. Usual £199. MODEL: SMARTSUITE '96.

£179 EX VAT

STORES NATIONWIDE
0990 464 464
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

*6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION OR 48 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS ON ALL PCs

APR 27.8%

ALL PRICES SHOWN EXCLUDING VAT. VAT WILL BE CHARGED AT 17.5%.

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

Intel, Inside and Pentium logos are trademarks of the Intel Corporation. ** SPECIAL PRICE WHEN BOUGHT WITH ANY MONITOR.

مكتبة من الأصول

Chancellor attacks expansion

Drop in university applicants reverses decade of growth

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DEMAND for university places has fallen for the first time since the Government launched its massive expansion of higher education ten years ago.

The number of applications is down by almost 5,000 this year in spite of an increase in the number of 18-year-olds. The fall, and the rising number of drop-outs reported this week by vice-chancellors, is expected to make it easier for candidates to gain a university place this autumn.

The Universities and Colleges Admission Service (Ucas) said 349,941 people had applied for places by January 12, 1.5 per cent down on last year.

The figures emerged as the chancellor of a leading technological university condemned the higher-education expansion strategy. Sir John Mason, of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, said: "The decision to greatly expand higher education before attending to the schools was like adding an extra storey to a house with crumbling foundations. It makes no sense."

"Since the war, schools have been used as a political football rather than in their proper role of implanting the discipline, knowledge and skills required by our workforce."

Teenagers were leaving school "illiterate, innumerate, inarticulate and incapable of earning a living" because of

government spending cuts, Sir John said in his last public address before retiring as chancellor.

He was against lowering university entrance standards, however. He said that in demanding subjects such as mathematics, physics and chemistry the number of well-qualified applicants so far that "large and famous departments that formerly demanded three As at advanced level are now glad to accept 2 Bs and a C and offer remedial teaching in mathematics."

"If our standards are allowed to fall, the rapidly developing countries will cease to send their students here for training. This could have serious consequences not only for the reputation and finances of our universities

but for investment in Britain as a whole."

Jess Enderby, of Ucas, said: "I do not think there will be any problem for appropriately qualified applicants to get into university this year. However, the popular universities and courses will always be more difficult to get into."

Mr Enderby added: "There are still a lot of students being influenced by the financial hardship factor and possibly that, combined with the improving job situation, is keeping more people away."

Figures suggest demand for higher education may have reached a plateau. There were 402,978 applicants in 1994, the year of merged polytechnic and university application bodies, and 408,991 last year. Applications to the Universities' Central Council on Admissions rose steadily from 1987 to 1993 after a fall of nearly 3,000 in 1986.

Ucas has yet to analyse this year's figures but there are signs that some of the biggest rises in applications have been at colleges of higher education rather than at new universities.

A total of 290,596 students gained a place at university last year, bringing the total full-time student population to more than a million, 50 per cent higher than in 1989. Further growth is officially on hold while Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, conducts a review of the future of higher education.



Popular universities will still be oversubscribed



Hannah Goring of Bonhams holds the Hercules, with Venus, left, and a Eurydice, right. Below, a rare picture of Miss Adams in younger days

Charity sale for recluse's £3m hoard

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ART treasures worth an estimated £3 million are to be auctioned for charity on behalf of a mysterious recluse. The auctioneer Bonhams says that hardly anything is known about Sylvia Phillips Adams, aged 88, who spent her life building up the collection.

It is known that she worked for London art dealers during the late 1920s and 1930s, and eventually set up her own

business, buying at all the top London auction houses. She never married, became a recluse about 20 years ago and is now confined to a nursing home by Alzheimer's disease. Following her wishes that the collection was to be left to charity, her doctor has joined her accountant and lawyer in founding a trust that will benefit various causes, including the poor and children.

The 800 works of art include 300 Renaissance plaquettes, and a number of rare Renaissance bronzes. There is a

1500s image of Hercules attributed to Antico, the court sculptor to the Gonzagas of Mantua, and a 1690s Venus and Cupid by Hubert Gerhard, court sculptor of Munich. The Antico sculpture alone is expected to fetch more than £1 million, but such is his rarity on the market that a value is virtually impossible to set.

Little is known about the owner's family background. Bonhams believes that Miss Adams came from a "well-to-do family", as her father appears to have worked only as a lay preacher.



Audit Office gives warning of nursery voucher fraud

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SECURITY measures are being brought in to combat fears of a black market in nursery school vouchers. An Audit Commission report due out next month will caution against the dangers of fraud in the four pilot areas where the scheme is being run: from Easter, before going national next year.

Vouchers worth £1,100 are due to be delivered next month and, from April, parents of four-year-olds in the London boroughs of Wandsworth, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea, and in Norfolk, will be entitled to exchange them for education at approved nurseries. The Audit

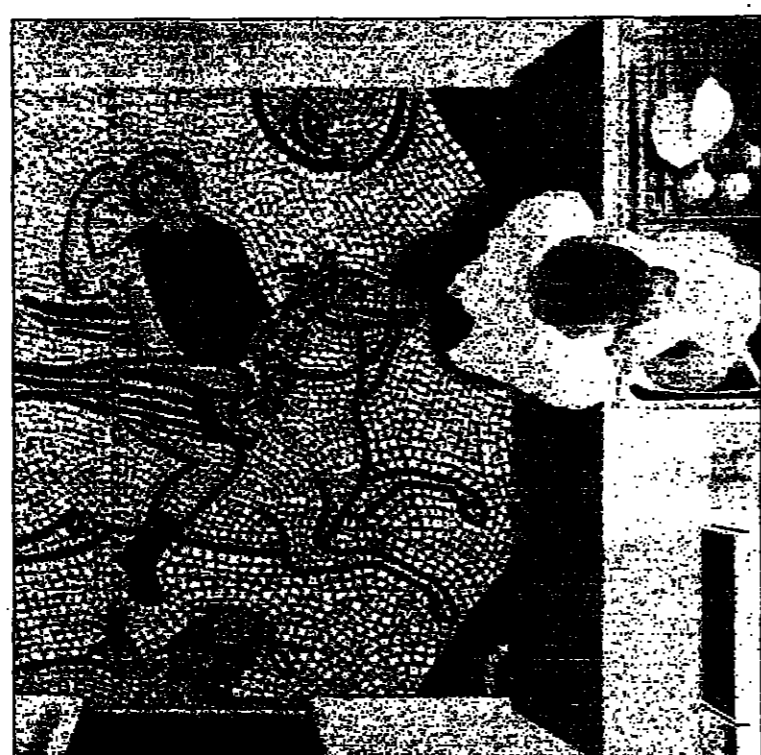
Commission yesterday confirmed its caution about a potential black market in vouchers, to be reported tonight on BBC2 in *First Sight* in the South East.

The Department for Education and Employment said measures were already planned. Applications would be checked against child benefit records, to ensure they only went to parents with children of the right age. Parents would be required to provide proof of identity if their address differed from that on records.

Each voucher would bear the child's name and a serial number. Capital Management Services, which was running

the scheme, would check when each voucher was redeemed that the name and serial number matched its records. Vouchers would contain security features, like bank notes, to guard against counterfeiting.

Ministers have already acknowledged that the scheme may run into difficulties because of a lack of nurseries. Robin Squire, an Education Minister, has admitted that some parents may find there are not enough nursery places — private, voluntary or local authority — to meet their new entitlement. The Government is confident any shortage will be overcome by fresh supply.



Save money on your home insurance and spend a little extra on your home.



0800 333 800

Phone for a free quote weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. Not available in Northern Ireland.

UP TO

50% OFF

CABINETS

SALE

FRIDGE AND FREEZER

HURRY-SOME OFFERS END 31ST JAN

45 STYLES - EVERY CABINET REDUCED

7 RIGID CABINETS SALE PRICE £854.93 (Was £934.93)

NEW EXTRA VALUE OFFERS

***HALF PRICE REFRIGERATION**

LARDER FRIDGE (1000mm) FOR ONLY **£79.99** (Was £149.99 SALE PRICE £109.99)

FREEZER (1000mm) FOR ONLY **£99.99** (Was £199.99 SALE PRICE £149.99)

OR

£50 OFF ANY OTHER REFRIGERATION PRODUCT IN OUR RANGE

AEG APPLIANCE PACKAGE SALE PRICE £499.97 (Was £579.97)

COMPRESSOR Electric Single Oven in Mica or White (AEG3111/21) Gas Hob in Mica or White (AEG1119/29) or Electric Hob in Mica or White (AEG1219/29) 60cm Cooker Hood in Mica or White (AEG2115/25)

LOW COST FIT ON ALL KITCHENS

We will be happy to visit your home at a time that's mutually convenient to complete a full Pre-Fit survey of your kitchen when you use our installation service.

MFI

More Furniture Ideas

SHOPPING HOURS: Mon 10-8, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-8, Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5, except Southampton 10-4.

Northern Ireland: Mon 10-6, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-5.

Also available at

MFI home works

PRICE INFORMATION: Room prices are for rigid factory built cabinets as listed above and do not include appliances, accessories, files, ornaments, chairs etc. All items subject to availability.

PHONE FREE PAGES 0500 192 192 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE.

Yorkshire Tories divided over ex-Chancellor

Lamont looks north in his quest for a political lifeline

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

NORMAN LAMONT'S political future will be at stake tomorrow night when he tries to persuade the Tory faithful in Harrogate and Knaresborough to select him as their general election candidate.

Party activists in the North Yorkshire seat appear divided over whether or not the former Chancellor will provide them with the best chance of heading off a strong challenge from the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Lamont has reached the final shortlist of three after at least 12 attempts at winning a seat since his Kingston-upon-Thames constituency was abolished by boundary changes. Harrogate, one of Britain's first spa towns, used to attract the sick to take its healing waters. Now Mr Lamont sees it as his best chance of reviving his political health.

Shortly after 5pm tomorrow, he will rise to his feet in the basement conference centre at the town's Majestic Hotel and place his future in the hands of the 300 party members expected to turn up. His supporters say he is just the man to put Harrogate on the map, in stark contrast to Robert Banks, the retiring MP, who has been criticised

for ignoring the constituency over the past 12 years. "Anybody is better than Banks," said Alex Hobson, 65, manager of The Ginnel Antique Centre. "Norman Lamont is his own man and he is certainly not afraid of speaking his mind."

Despite having backed John Redwood in last year's party leadership contest, Mr Lamont has recently declared a newfound support for the Prime Minister. His opponents, however, say that he will never be forgiven for bringing in VAT on fuel and cutting mortgage relief. More to the point, he is not a local man. Knaresborough Tories have written to the executive committee complaining that none of the shortlisted three comes from the area.

Among the other candidates, Mr Lamont will face a strong challenge from David Ruffley, 33, special adviser to the present Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke. Mr Ruffley, a former corporate lawyer on the right of the party, is at least a northerner — he was born in Bolton. But whether that will sway the Yorkshire Tories remains to be seen.

The other contender is Ian Liddell-Granger, a Tyneside

businessman, who stood unsuccessfully for Tyne and Wear at the European elections in 1994. None of the candidates is odds-on favourite.

Stephen Moorehouse, a solicitor and party member, said that the candidates reflected the division of opinion in the selection committee. "I haven't made my mind up and I suspect that the majority of members are going to the meeting with a completely open mind."

Mr Lamont may be hampered by the allegation that Tory Central Office put pressure on local officials to secure the seat for him. Better, so the argument goes, to have Mr Lamont busy fighting for a seat than voicing criticism of the Prime Minister. But the allegation is rejected by local Tories. Mr Moorehouse said: "Nothing could be further from the truth. I have not had a single person saying that I must vote for Lamont or not vote for Lamont. To suggest there has been outside pressure is absolute twaddle."

However, such is the sense of paranoia over Mr Lamont's position on the list that all members of the Tory executive committee have had to sign



documents pledging not to talk to the press about the candidates. Local officials refuse even to acknowledge that the selection meeting is taking place.

Estelle Edwards, the Tory Association chairman, said: "It's the usual procedure. There must be complete confidentiality. It isn't fair on the candidates to have their names banded about."

Harrogate, populated mainly by a well-to-do middle class — "urban, old and affluent,"

as one man put it, has been Tory for as long as anyone can remember. But whoever is chosen will have to fight a strong campaign against the Liberal Democrats.

Although the Tories have a majority of 12,589, they have lost key wards in the boundary changes and their national majority has shrunk to about 9,000. The Liberal Democrats have a known candidate in Phil Willis, the local council leader, and consider the seat winnable.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: backbench debates followed by trade and industry questions and debates on Employment, Contributions, Retirement, Regulations, Housing, Benefit, Supply of Information and Council Tax, Benefit (Administrative) Regulations, Income Support (General), Jobseeker's Allowance, Consequential Amendments) Regulations, Jobseeker's Allowance (Back to Work Bonus) Regulations, In the Lords: education, cooperative sector, in social policy and business, Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to trade and industry ministers and the Prime Minister followed by a debate on the future of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Ashdown striving to ensure his party has clout

Don't write off Paddy Ashdown and the Liberal Democrats. They have survived the Tony Blair phenomenon and could still have an influential role in the next Parliament. That will be the sub-text of the mini-campaign he will launch this weekend with an interview on the Frost programme (now part of the formal new year ritual for party leaders), press articles and what is being billed as a big speech on Monday.

It has been a frustrating 18 months for Mr Ashdown since Mr Blair started dominating the political agenda. The Liberal Democrats have found it hard to present a clear identity. Yesterday, Mr Ashdown pointed out that the Liberal Democrats had originally highlighted the idea of a stakeholder society and complained that Labour's version was vague and begged questions on relations with the unions.

Most discussion of the Liberal Democrats has been in terms of their relations with Mr Blair, however often Mr Ashdown may claim that the Liberal Democrats have sharper policies than Labour on education, a single currency and the environment. He has seemed on the fringe of the main party debate. The Liberal Democrats have also lost to Labour some of their brightest policy thinkers from their former SDP wing, such as Roger Liddle, David Marquand, John Dickie and Andrew Adonis, who helped to give the party authority on national issues.

The worry of the party's remaining social democrats is that, despite the official move away from equidistance between the parties, the leadership has not been positive enough about Mr Blair. Indeed has too often been carping about him and too keen to adopt a self-conscious, and self-defeating, left-wing posture which will damage its electoral prospects.

The Liberal Democrats have suffered in the polls, falling from more than 20 per cent in spring 1994 to 14 per cent in the second half of last year, according to MORI. But this is still higher than during most of the last Parliament, while occasional high-profile events, such as the defection

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

of Emma Nicholson last month, can give the party an immediate boost, of between 2½ and 6 points according to two recent polls. The party continues to do well in parliamentary by-elections and in local elections, though with some tailings-off in council by-elections recently.

The party's electoral strategy is to concentrate on advancing regionally more than nationally, particularly in the South West and in target seats dotted round the country. This cannot be achieved entirely by local campaigns and tactical voting. The party's near miss in several seats in the June 1994 European elections showed that the party requires a national prominence and credibility if it is to avoid being squeezed by the overall Labour advance.

Mr Ashdown occasionally appears impatient but always bounces back with a new plan. While specifically avoiding any suggestion of pre-election deals or pacts (not on the agenda), he will on Monday revive the question of post-election co-operation by outlining what an incoming government should do. He will list the key issues which have to be tackled (education, the economy, welfare reform, the environment and Europe) and will emphasise a timescale going beyond a single Parliament. He will also discuss not just the contents of a constitutional reform programme, but also how it should be achieved.

A part from raising the party's profile, Mr Ashdown's aim is to signal the terms of possible relations between the Liberal Democrats and Labour, implying backing for a common agenda rather than any formal coalition. Mr Blair has always been careful to leave open the door to such co-operation, as part of a more pluralist style of politics, whether or not Labour gains a working overall majority in the next Parliament. But Labour retains the upper hand in any dialogue with the Liberal Democrats.

PETER RIDDELL

Rebel MP returns to the fold . . . for the time being

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR's parlous Commons majority was given a fillip yesterday with the return to the fold of the whipless rebel Sir Richard Body.

But the Eurosceptic MP seemed determined to continue punishing the Prime Minister for having once said: "When I hear the name Richard Body, I hear the sound of white coats flapping." Only minutes after his return was announced he insisted that it was "temporary".

The last whipless rebel has kept the Government on tenterhooks for 14 months since he resigned the whip voluntarily in protest at the Govern-

ment's policies on Europe. With the defection of Emma Nicholson last month and likely Tory losses at forthcoming by-elections in Hensworth and Staffordshire South East, the whips were desperate to get him back.

Sir Richard, MP for Holland with Boston, said he was proud to have been called "barney" by the Prime Minister. The sticking point had been the Government's position on fishing rights. He made it clear that he would not re-apply for the whip until ministers agreed to reform the Common Fisheries Policy.

He horrified loyal Tories by threatening to stand as an independent Tory for the newly formed seat of Boston

and Skegness. At one stage Conservative Central Office tried to pressure his constituency into bringing their MP back into line.

Yesterday lunchtime Sir Richard spent an hour and a half with Sir Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip. He then slipped out of a back door and was bundled into a car. Mr Goodlad said: "I am pleased that Sir Richard is once more in receipt of the Conservative whip."

But later Sir Richard told reporters that he had not taken the whip but would support the Government where he could. After an hour of frantic telephone calls with the Government majority yo-yoing from three to five, Sir Richard finally agreed that he had

accepted the whip "temporarily". Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "I am sure that Heaven rejoices at the return of one prodigal sinner and that applies in Downing Street too."

It later became clear that Sir Richard had used the full weight of his 40 years as a backbencher to lecture the Chief Whip on what was going wrong with the party. He said last night: "Alastair was a good listener. Except on Europe I support the Government. I don't think it's doing a bad job."

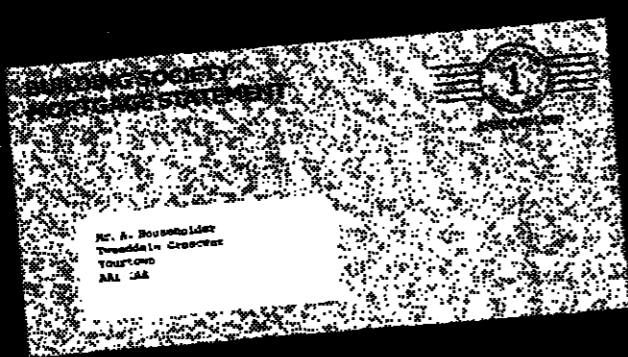
He said that he could not take the whip permanently until he was satisfied that British travellers would not have to relinquish their exclusive rights to fish in in-shore waters.



Sir Richard yesterday

Pay no legal fees if you call Direct Line now.

Why transfer your mortgage to Direct Line?
Your building society reveals all.



Just received your building society mortgage statement? Now for the good news.

- Transferring to Direct Line can save you over £40* every month on your mortgage.
 - Transfer before 1st March 1996 using our solicitors package and we'll pay your legal fees.
 - We'll give you a free valuation.
 - We also guarantee to save you 20% on your existing buildings insurance.
- Call one of the numbers below and we'll reveal how Direct Line can save you money.

*Typical Mortgage of £100,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments)			
Lender	APR (Variable)	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Monthly saving with Direct Line
HALIFAX	8.1%	£540.54	£42.32
WOOLWICH	8.0%	£539.30	£41.08
NATIONWIDE	7.9%	£537.93	£41.71
DIRECT LINE	6.9%	£526.22	—
			£157,856

APR is based on Standard Variable Rate Repayments. Mortgage, current at 3 January 1996. NBS has been calculated under current tax legislation which may also.



DIRECT LINE MORTGAGES

0181 649 9099
LONDON0161 831 9099
MANCHESTER0141 221 9099
GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT19

Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 139 Weymouth Street, Glasgow, G2 2BQ. Direct Line and its red telephone on wheels are the trade marks of Direct Line Insurance plc, and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £200,000 are available for up to 25% of the property value or purchase price, whichever is the lower. Applicants must be aged 18 or over and Direct Line Financial Services reserves the right to decline any application. Life insurance to cover the amount of the loan and security in the form of a first legal charge (Standard Security - Scotland) over the property will be required. The property must be fully insured for the duration of the loan. All rates quoted are for standard variable rate mortgages. The standard valuation fee will be refunded to the borrower once the mortgage is set up (for the example quoted the fee would be £120). Direct Line will pay the legal fees only when the mortgage on the borrower's existing home is transferred using Direct Line's special arrangements for legal fees. Written quotations are available on request. Some charges may require payment of a fee to the existing lender when being transferred. The guaranteed insurance saving only applies if you convert insurance to arranged by your lender and is subject to our normal underwriting criteria and corresponding levels of cover. For your added security all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording tape secure. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Only Cellphones Direct can offer a range of bargains like this.



NOKIA MODEL 909.
♦ 40 name/number memory ♦ 60 mins talk-time ♦ 10 hrs standby-time ♦ Complete with slim battery and fast charger ♦ Lightweight 195g

FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE LOWCALL WITH NO TARIFF INCREASES GUARANTEED FOR LIFE

Monthly Rental £15 (£12.77 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls 50p per min (42.5p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls 28p per min (17p + VAT)

LowCall peak times are 8.00-19.00 Mon to Fri. Mandatory national charge will be charged at £1.77 inc VAT for each LowCall minute in excess of 10 minutes and a charge will be charged at £1.77 inc VAT for each LowCall minute in excess of 10 minutes and a charge will be charged at £1.77 inc VAT for each LowCall minute in excess of 10 minutes.

When it comes to the best mobile phone deals, nobody beats Cellphones Direct. Just take a look at these January special offers, for example. We've slashed the price on the feature-packed Nokia 232. We have an exclusive package deal on the top-selling Sony CM-R111K, Britain's smallest phone. Or you can be among the first to buy the exciting new, lightweight Nokia 909.

Whichever phone you choose you get free connection to Vodafone LowCall Tariff. Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone within 4 working days.

PRICE £19.99
AFTER £10 CASHBACK
£9.99 INC. VAT

SONY MODEL CM-R111K.
♦ 9 speed dial memories ♦ 60 minutes talk-time ♦ 14 hrs standby-time ♦ Featherweight only 125g (5 1/2oz) ♦ Complete with charger and standard battery

PLUS SONY REMOTE COMMANDER SONY EARPHONE MICROPHONE SONY LONG AERIAL TOGETHER WORTH £138



NOKIA MODEL 232.
♦ 98 name/number memory ♦ 70 mins talk-time ♦ 16 hrs standby-time ♦ Complete with battery and fast travel charger ♦ Lightweight 210g

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

Cellphones direct

CALL NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0500 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 8AM TO 8PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 2204. CREDIT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO ACCEPT OTHER CREDIT CARDS.

OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUTORY AND A STANDARD AIRTIME CONTRACT FOR EACH PHONE WITH CELLPHONES DIRECT LTD, 185 LOWER RICHMOND ROAD, RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES TW9 1LN. FULL WRITTEN DETAILS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS OFFER ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. © COPYRIGHT 1995 CELLPHONES DIRECT LTD. REGISTERED NO. 2995222.



EU sacks British official for single currency attack

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASSBOURG

BERNARD CONNOLLY, the British European Union official, who wrote a book attacking monetary union last year, was sacked yesterday by the Commission in Brussels for publishing without permission and damaging the interests of the EU.

The Commission notified Mr Connolly of the unprecedented decision by the five-member disciplinary council which heard the charges against him at a closed hearing last month. Mr Connolly's lawyers voiced surprise last night that the only witness called against him — the head of his department — had acknowledged that he had not read the book.

The 46-year-old Briton, a career European civil servant who has worked in Brussels since 1978 and headed the unit that monitors the exchange-rate mechanism, was suspended from duty last September after publishing *The Rotten Heart of Europe — The Dirty War for Europe's Money*. Mr Connolly said last night he was disappointed by the way that the disciplinary

council, headed by David Williamson, the Commission's British Secretary-General, failed to "take into account the detailed refutation of the Commission's allegations which we provided."

His lawyers said they had been surprised by the rushed manner of the disciplinary proceedings and the calling of a prosecution witness against Mr Connolly without warning. Giovanni Ravasio, the director-general of Mr



Connolly, accused of "flouting loyalty"

Connolly's department, gave evidence on the impact of the book but admitted he had not read it, said Jacques Sanbon, his lawyer. Commission officials were not available for comment.

In its ruling, signed by Franz de Koster, the director-general of personnel, the Commission said that Mr Connolly had breached two articles in the EU staff conditions. These covered the publication of books without permission and actions which damage the interests of the Community.

The council said Mr Connolly did not seek permission for his book when he took unpaid leave last summer because he knew that he would be refused, having previously failed to receive approval.

Mr Connolly "could not have been unaware of the fact" that the contents of the book conflicted with policies adopted by the Commission in its role as executor of the Maastricht treaty and the project for economic and monetary union (EMU), it said. His action had "flouted the loyalty and honest-

ty" which he was bound to show towards the Commission and his superiors, it said. His conduct had "seriously damaged the interests of the Community".

Mr Connolly has argued that by airing his view that EMU was a threat to Europe he had been acting in the Union's interests. He also insisted that nothing in the book was confidential.

The sacking takes effect next month, which his lawyers said appeared to be aimed at gagging Mr Connolly over the next fortnight. He had been due on Monday to give evidence to the House of Lords European Committee and to appear before the Commons Treasury Select Committee later this month.

While there is no direct course of appeal, European Union civil servants can challenge the legality of a dismissal at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Mr Connolly has a case pending there, alleging that the Commission acted illegally against him. An appeal would not be heard for at least two years.

Berlusconi taunts journalists as bribe trial begins

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN MILAN AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

SILVIO BERLUSCONI, the Italian multimillionaire media tycoon and former Prime Minister, sneered at journalists and begged the court to stop the case being broadcast live on his own television channels as his trial on corruption charges opened yesterday.

The small courtroom in Milan's Palace of Justice was so cramped that reporters squeezed into a steel cage for prisoners. The Forza Italia party leader, 59, sat on a bench next to them. When he strode into the courtroom, he declared: "I don't feel like a defendant." But the strain of the trial began to tell as proceedings began.

On trial with Signor Berlusconi are Paolo, his younger brother, and five associates of his Fininvest business empire. They are accused of paying 380 million lire (£150,000) in bribes to tax inspectors reviewing the company's books. Paolo, who was not in court, has admitted making the payments, but

claims that his brother had no knowledge of them.

During a break in the proceedings, Signor Berlusconi strode to the cage holding about 20 hapless journalists, and declared: "This is where you belong." The scribes demanded to know why his lawyers had requested that the trial not be screened live. Signor Berlusconi said he did not want it to turn into a spectacle. But judicial sources said he clearly wanted to limit damage to his image.

The judge compromised by allowing RAI state television to tape the proceedings for an edited broadcast. The trial was adjourned until January 26.

The Italian media are portraying the trial as a duel for power between Signor Berlusconi and Antonio Di Pietro, the Milan magistrate who led the Clean Hands anti-corruption drive. Signor Berlusconi has accused him of being "politically motivated". Signor Di Pietro has since resigned as a magistrate and is pursuing a political career.



Silvio Berlusconi during a break in court yesterday

France and Nato ease nuclear rift

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE outlined yesterday its decision to play a closer part in Nato military affairs, but held back from joining two key alliance policy committees.

Gerard Herrera, the French Ambassador, warned the 16-nation North Atlantic Council in Brussels against any hopes of France returning to "the situation that existed before 1966", when the French pulled out of Nato's integrated military command structure.

But yesterday's announcement of closer ties was clearly intended to provide the French with a voice on all key military and security issues — including, for the first time in 30 years, nuclear policy.

Since 1966, France has taken part only in Nato foreign ministers' meetings and has kept its armed forces outside Nato's military command. M Herrera said France was now prepared to discuss nuclear issues.

The country will resume its seat on the alliance's military committee, the Nato situation centre, the defence college in Rome and defence school in Oberammergau, and re-establish a permanent military mission to Nato. It will not rejoin the alliance's Defence Planning Committee or Nuclear Planning Group.

Kinkel sure Britain will back euro

By GEORGE BROCK
EUROPEAN EDITOR

BRITAIN will not be able to resist the tempting economic advantages and "logicality" of a European single currency system and will join soon after it is set up, Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, predicted yesterday.

Herr Kinkel said in Oxford that the success of monetary union would force Britain to participate. He quoted Lord Howe, who once said that in Europe Britain "usually does the right thing in the end, only 20 years too late". Herr Kinkel said that he would not go as far as that but "it is better to catch the boat than to swim after it". He insisted that monetary union would start on time in 1999.

Attending the opening of a centre for European law at Oxford University, Herr Kinkel described the Anglo-German relationship as "unspectacular and down to earth, but close and intense". It was an "alliance of convictions". Both countries were in favour of an open trading system and against protectionism, wanted to restructure their economies, backed opening the European Union and Nato to Eastern European states and valued links to America.

Central bank fears, page 25

Stylish dinner B&B
In the rating 4 day B&B
Close to 4 Metros, in most with
Complete the 1 Wharf Street
Please send me for:
Portals ☐ L
Name _____
Address _____
Daytime Tel no. _____

THE EXPLOSIVE NEW BESTSELLER

FURY

Out now in Pan paperback

And look out for
PRECIPICE
The new hardback

Also available from Macmillan Audio Books,
read by William Franklyn

OR SIMPLY, THE CASE IN FAVOUR OF ROADS IN GENERAL. THE ORIGINAL 155 HAS BEEN BREATHTAKINGLY REVAMPED WITH WIDER FRONT AND REAR WINGS. NOTICE ITS WRAPAROUND REAR SPOILER. BODY COLOURED PAINTED SKIRTS AND 16" ALLOY WHEELS. THE 155 IS POWERED BY A 2.0 TWIN-SPARK 16V ENGINE. IT COMES WITH LEATHER STEERING WHEEL AND BODY-HUGGING SPORTS SEATS. IT'S A CAR THAT DEFINITELY MAKES DRIVING BETTER THAN ARRIVING. GO ROUND TO YOUR NEAREST DEALER FOR A TEST DRIVE OR RING 0200 713 000. WE'RE NOT AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT. WE'RE ALL FOR GETTING MORE PEOPLE OUT INTO IT.

ALFA 155. THE CASE IN FAVOUR OF MORE ROADS.

SELENIA MOTOR OIL 3-YEAR ALFACARE

*CAR FEATURED IS A 2.0 TWIN-SPARK 16 VALVE WITH OPTIONAL SPORTS KIT.

Security experts say only world's leading anti-terror units can safely capture a hijacked vessel at sea

Risks stacked against commando operation

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TURKISH commandos have no easy options in preparing for a possible recovery of the hijacked ferry. Releasing hostages held on a moving vessel on the high seas is regarded by even the most experienced special forces units as one of the most dangerous and vulnerable operations.

If the negotiations fail to free the hostages and a decision is taken to use force, there are only two options: to use helicopters or raiding craft if the ferry is on the move or to persuade the armed gunmen to dock the ship when a less risky operation could be mounted from the shore.

"Only the most highly specialised military units should contemplate carrying out such an operation," said one British military source. The principal challenge would be to get alongside the ferry — in rigid raider craft — without being spotted by the terrorists. The element of surprise would be crucial and the exercise would have to be carried out in the dark.

"Then there would be the difficult task of trying to board the vessel without alerting the gunmen," the source said.

Helicopters approaching the ferry would be noisy and would be regarded as the

RESCUE OPTIONS

second choice for sending in commandos. Much would also depend on acquiring prior intelligence on the whereabouts of the hostages.

"If they are scattered around the ship in groups, it would be very difficult for a special forces unit to guarantee their safe release," the source said. The Royal Ma-

rine's practise parachuting into water out of Chinook helicopters when rehearsing scenarios similar to the hijacking in the Black Sea by pro-Chechen Turkish gunmen.

Britain has two specialist units capable of mounting an operation to recover a hijacked ship: the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service and the Marines' Comacchio Group which is expert in protecting North Sea oil platforms from terrorist attack. The SAS also has a special boat troop.

However, the military source said that if the hijacked vessel were moving it would be a very complex operation.

In October 1985, four Palestinian gunmen hijacked the Italian cruise liner, *Achille Lauro*, with 450 passengers and crew on board, as it steamed from the Syrian coast to Cyprus.

The terrorists threatened to kill passengers unless 50 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons were freed. The terrorists were from the Palestine Liberation Front, a splinter group that stood opposed to Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The Italians sent a squad of

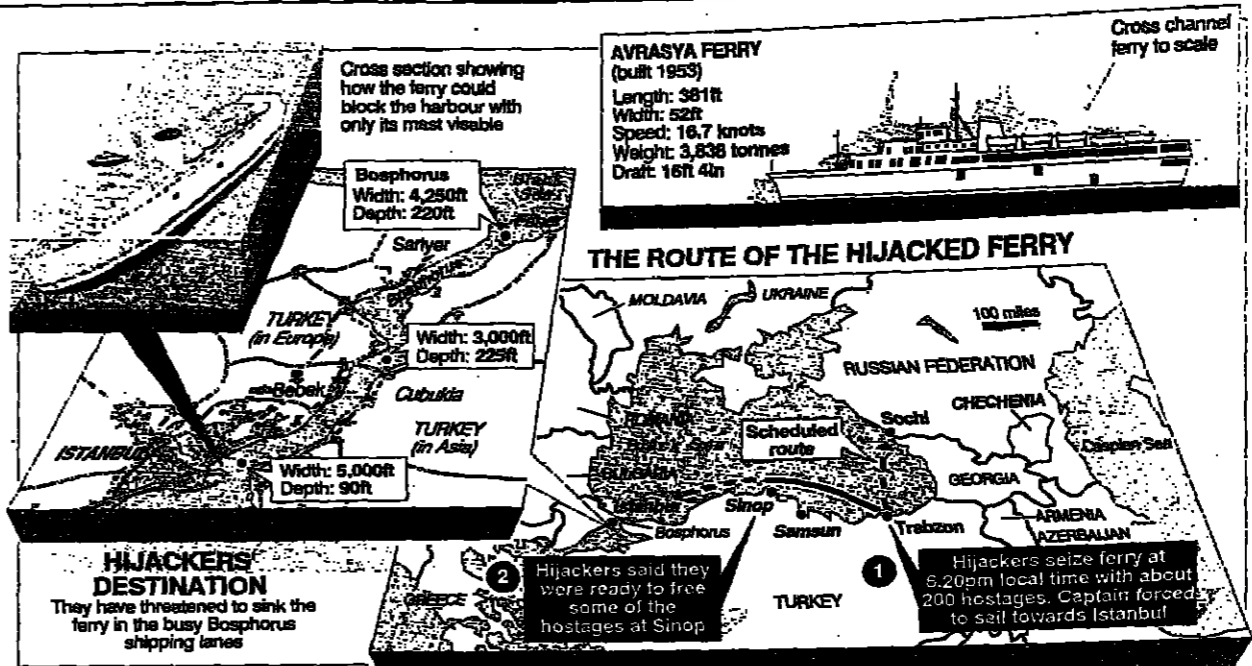
anti-terrorist commandos to Cyprus. However, the hijack was brought to a swift conclusion when the terrorists agreed to surrender to Egyptian authorities at Port Said after a day of negotiations. Before surrendering, the guerrillas killed a disabled American tourist, Leon Klinghoffer, who was shot and dumped overboard in his wheelchair.

Although the Egyptians granted them free passage, the airliner in which they were being taken from Cairo to Tunis was intercepted by six American Tomcat fighter aircraft from the carrier, *USS Saratoga*, and was forced to land at Sicily.

The mastermind behind the hijack, Mahmoud Abbas Zaidan, better known as Abu Abbas, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, was sentenced to life imprisonment in his absence.

In 1972, the *QE2* was held to ransom in mid-Atlantic with 1,350 passengers and 800 crew on board. Cunard, the owners, agreed to pay £140,000 after a telephone caller to its New York office said six bombs had been concealed on the ship and would be detonated if the ransom was not paid.

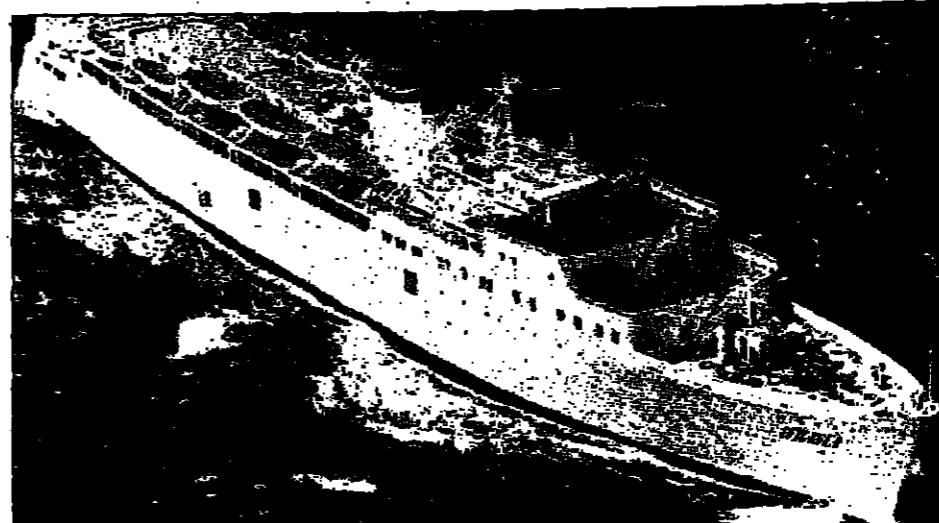
Four army bomb disposal experts were parachuted from



a Hercules into the Atlantic about half a mile from the *QE2*. They searched all 13 decks and nearly 1,000 cabins but found nothing.

Turkish commandos were reported yesterday to be monitoring the *Avrasya's* progress from land and two coast guard vessels were tailing the ship. The coast guard also tried to block the vessel from leaving Trabzon harbour on Tuesday night.

□ Moscow: The hijacking has temporarily put an end to the lucrative "shop-tours", cut-rate packages to Turkey that have become popular among Russian traders who snap up Turkish clothing, food and furs for resale at home. (AP)



Two hundred passengers and crew are being held on board the *Avrasya* ferry

Leading article, page 19

Latest challenge will test survival instinct to limit

By RICHARD BEESTON

President Yeltsin has always prided himself on the ability to survive the punishing challenges of Kremlin rule that would have long ago overcome a less robust leader.

But as the Russian President struggles to extricate himself from his latest crisis in the Caucasus it is difficult to see how the Houdini of Russian politics is planning to wriggle his way out of this trick.

With the crisis in Chechnya now in its second week, the Russian leader has five months in which to re-establish his authority and contain a conflict that has so far defeated the best efforts of his generals and diplomats.

President Yeltsin is a past master of political survival and his closest advisers claim that his best qualities always shine through when his back is against the wall. In August

1991 the Russian leader, with little more than the goodwill of the people and the courage of a small group of supporters, took on and defeated the Communist-led coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.

In October 1992 he was again challenged by hardliners on the streets of Moscow and this time revealed his ruthless instinct for survival when he put down the uprising with troops and tanks.

Even Chechnya, which President Yeltsin has described as the "biggest disappointment" of his career, has failed to topple the Russian leader as many predicted it would, when he ordered the ill-conceived assault by Russian forces on the breakaway republic more than a year ago.

In spite of initial criticism from the West and liberal opponents in Russia, the war failed to materialise as an election issue in recent parliamentary polls.

Nevertheless, like their formidable ancestors who kept the Russian Imperial Army bogged down for half a century, the Chechen rebels have proved as stubborn as their opponent in the Kremlin. Under the leadership of the mercenary, Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechens have withstood the full might of the Russian military and still showed no signs of giving up.

President Yeltsin has experi-

mented with various military and diplomatic options in an attempt to calm the situation in the northern Caucasus. But like some incurable virus, the Chechen bug has simply refused to go away.

The latest incidents being played out in the devastated settlement of Pervomayskoye and aboard a ferry, off the Turkish coast in the Black Sea, has served to demonstrate that whatever the Russian leader chooses, a few determined gunmen can humiliate his authority at home and even turn a small ethnic struggle into an international incident.

While Russians care little about what happens inside the small breakaway republic, they do worry when the conflict spreads to other regions and directly affects their security. In this context, the Chechen conflict becomes the latest example of the Kremlin's incompetence in dealing with domestic and foreign security

issues. Not surprisingly, the need for a return to law and order

and secure borders was a cornerstone of the successful election campaign waged by the Communists in the parliamentary elections, a victory they are hoping to repeat in June's presidential race.

Mr Yeltsin has few options available that have not already been tried and found wanting. He can attempt a military solution which, given its record, would probably result in a large loss of civilian life, heavy military casualties and few gains on the ground.

He could try to restart negotiations with the Chechens although, given the recent history of failed peace talks, no one seriously believes that this is a credible solution.

His best choice is to hope that the crisis will die down over the coming weeks and that by June the whole issue will have blown over. However, that would mean taking a dangerous calculated risk. The Kremlin leader would have to take the chance that another Chechen guerrilla commander, like Salman Raduyev, the "Lone Wolf" who masterminded the latest incident, is not planning another operation to coincide with polls on June 16.

By then, the great survivor of modern Russian politics will have run out of time.

THE COMET PRICE
YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER

FREE MICROWAVE COOKBOOK

DE'LONGHI MICROWAVE OVEN
• 0.6 cu ft capacity
• 8 power levels
• Manual controls
• Timer
Model MW210
was £79.99
previously £139.99
SALE PRICE £69.99
SAVE OVER 50%

EASY STAIR CLEANING HOSE
• 1000 watts suction power
• Star cleaning hose
• Built-in tools
• 5 filtration levels
• Wet-dry cleaning
Model U2676
was £199.99
SALE PRICE £139.99
SAVE £60

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
CRUSADER REVERSE ACTION TUMBLE DRYER
• 11lb dry load
• 3 drying temperatures
• Sensor care feature
• 120 minute timer
Model 37601, was £219.99
in-store price £144.99
VOUCHER PRICE £139.99
SAVE £80

FAST FREEZE FACILITY
WHIRLPOOL FRIDGE FREEZER
• DFC free
• 5.2 cu ft fridge capacity
• 1.5 cu ft freezer capacity
• Auto defrost
Model ART501
was £199.99
previously £299.99
SALE PRICE £189.99
SAVE £110

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
TRICITY BENDIX WASHING MACHINE
• 1000 spin @ 1000 wash load
• 13 programmes
• Half load option
Model CAV1000
was £299.99
in-store price £209.99
VOUCHER PRICE £289.99
SAVE £110

VOUCHER OFFER: 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT
SIEMENS NIXDORF
• Intel Pentium 75 MHz processor
• 8Mb RAM/850Mb hard disk drive
• 15" monitor
• Built-in 14.4 baud modem
Model SP101/850
in-store price £1799.99
includes 3 SOFTWARE TITLES
VOUCHER PRICE £1499.99
SAVE £300

THE COMET SALE

NOBODY BEATS OUR PRICES
With the Comet Price Promise, if you buy any product from Comet, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE.

SAVE UP TO 50%

HURRY! VOUCHERS MUST END MONDAY

PLUS 18 MONTHS UP TO INTEREST FREE CREDIT

ON SELECTED TV/VIDEO PACKAGES & MULTIMEDIA PCs
UP TO 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT

ON SELECTED FRIDGE FREEZERS & HI-FI SYSTEMS
UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT

ON SELECTED WASHING MACHINES
UP TO 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT

ON SELECTED DISHWASHERS
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT

BETTER COME TO COMET

MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY & UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS.

RING FREE ON 0500 560570 FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE AND MULTIMEDIA PC CENTRE.

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
GOODMANS MULTIMEDIA PC WITH SINGLE CASSETTE
• 3 hard graphic accelerator
• 32 track programme
• CD player Model M9503
was £129.99 previously £199.99
in-store price £114.99
VOUCHER PRICE £98.99
SAVE OVER 50%

LOWEST PRICED 21" FASTTEXT TV
GOODMANS 21" FASTTEXT TV
• 51cm visible screen
• PST Model 2201
• On-screen display
Model 2197, was £249.99
in-store price £229.99
VOUCHER PRICE £199.99
SAVE £50

THE UK'S TOP SELLING GAMES CONSOLE
PLAYSTATION
• 32 BIT CD GAMES CONSOLE
• Complete with revolutionary hand controller
• Super fast game play and 3D quality sound
Model 1000, was £299.99
in-store price £279.99
VOUCHER PRICE £299.99
LATEST SOFTWARE TITLES AVAILABLE

LOWEST EVER PRICE
TOSHIBA NIKAM VIDEO RECORDER
• Built-in Videocassette
• 8 event, 1 month timer
Model VT605, was £359.99
in-store price £379.99
VOUCHER PRICE £349.99
SAVE £50

LOWEST PRICED 25" NIKAM TV
GOODMANS 25" NIKAM TV
• 51cm visible screen
• PST Model 2201
was £249.99
in-store price £229.99
VOUCHER PRICE £379.99
SAVE £50

LOWEST PRICED CAMCORDER
SAMSUNG 8MM CAMCORDER
• WHAT VIDEO RECOMMENDED
• Excellent value for money
• 8x zoom lens
• 2 lux rating
Model VP-410, was £429.99
previously £599.99
in-store price £399.99
VOUCHER PRICE £389.99
SAVE £140

PLUS £12 MILLION MASSIVE STOCK CLEAROUT
THOUSANDS OF EX-DEMONSTRATION, EX-DISPLAY AND END OF LINE PRODUCTS REDUCED TO CLEAR

OVER 5000 TV'S, 4000 VHS'S, 4000 CASSETTES, 3000 B.V.'S, 2000 CD'S, 2000 STEREO'S, 2000 CD PLAYERS, 2000 RECORDERS, 2000 CAMCORDER'S, 1000 LAUNDRY MACHINES

LOOK FOR THE SPECIAL C-1000 SIGN
CHECK YOUR LOCAL STORE FOR AVAILABILITY

HOUSE INSURANCE

SAVE UP TO 50% OR MORE
e.g. LONDON & HOME COUNTIES
£100,000 Buildings Sum Insured
Premium Only £154.00

LOWER Premiums in most Other Areas
Tel: 0181 367 5151 NOW!
Or phone your nearest branch at the local rate on:
0345 123111

Hill House Hammond
Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

50% من الأصل

ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Time to stop fighting inflation

BOOKS 40, 41

Churchill and the postwar wanderings of the Tories

SPORT 42-48

One-day frailties return to haunt England cricketers

GEOFF BROWN ON THE LATEST FILMS Arts 37-39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 18 1996

Gas regulator fuels calls for market delay

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE start of competition to supply gas to 500,000 homes in the southwest of England may have to be delayed because of legitimate concerns at British Gas that technical preparations are incomplete, Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, said yesterday.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mrs Spottiswoode also forecast that the Government may decide by tomorrow whether to impose a levy on consumers to fund liabilities of more than £1 billion arising from take-or-pay gas purchase contracts signed by British Gas. Her remarks confirm the difficulties that have snared preparations to enable Britain's 18 million household gas users to choose their supplier.

Last week, Harry Moulson, a British Gas main board director and head of TransCo, its pipeline subsidiary, said that the April 1 start date for competition should be delayed until June.

Chris Rees, a Deloitte & Touche (formerly Touche Ross) consultant appointed by Ofgas to determine whether competition can still go ahead, on April 1, will report to Mrs Spottiswoode tomorrow.

An industry-wide meeting, bringing together the Department of Trade and Industry, Ofgas, the industry regulatory body, TransCo, British Gas Supply and almost 30 suppliers — rival gas suppliers, has been convened for next Tuesday to review progress.

"There is absolutely no doubt that the April 1 [target date] is very fragile," Mrs Spottiswoode said. "It is an extremely daunting timetable." She added: "I do think

TransCo has some real concerns and we should listen to them," adding: "It is better to get it right than it is to commence it [the pilot] too early and have a lot of administration problems. I prefer to see a smooth introduction of competition."

Mrs Spottiswoode said she expects a decision about whether to defer the pilot scheme, opening up a regional market worth £160 million a

impose a levy on gas consumers in licences that are about to be issued to companies wanting to compete in the household gas market. "I think they should put it in," she said. "It is a very fine choice."

But she said that levy powers would be a "double-edged sword" that might make it more difficult for British Gas to renegotiate gas purchase arrangements with its suppliers.

The head of Ofgas said that unless the DTI wrote a levy provision into the licences now, primary legislation could be needed in the future to resolve British Gas's difficulties over take-or-pay contracts stretching decades ahead and covering the purchase of gas worth £40 billion.

British Gas, because of the rate at which it is losing its market to rivals, no longer needs all the gas it has contracted to buy. Yet, under the terms of the contracts, it must pay North Sea producers, whether or not the gas is used.

The company is unable to sell surplus gas to its rivals because the spot price of gas has slumped to around 10p a therm, less than half of the 21p average that British Gas is paying.

The DTI has urged gas producers to renegotiate the contracts with British Gas but not at a substantial loss. Mrs Spottiswoode believes the losses and liabilities could threaten the financial viability of British Gas, and that a levy may prove the last resort if producers fail to agree price cuts to the former monopoly.

Power plea

BUYERS of electricity for industry yesterday called for a delay to the full opening of the market to competition in 1998 (Christine Buckley writes). The Utility Buyers' Forum, which already buys power at competitive prices after liberalisation of the market for users of over 1mW and 100kW, urged Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, to postpone the opening from the planned date of April 1998. The decision over where the funding will come from for the massive project has not yet been resolved.

year, will be made at the last possible moment. She also feels that the two-month delay sought by British Gas might not be necessary. "It could be April 10 instead of April 1," she said.

The pilot is intended to test systems in preparation for full national competition in the household gas market by January 1, 1999.

Mrs Spottiswoode also said that she believes the Government should take powers to

Pennington, page 27
Complications, page 29



Time for reflection: Clare Spottiswoode making a point during yesterday's interview

Earnings boost for rate cut hopes

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, met yesterday for their monthly interest rate discussion armed with new evidence that wage pressures remain subdued.

Annual growth in average earnings remained at 3.25 per cent in November, the fifth month in a row at that level. The City had been expecting a rise to 3.5 per cent and argued that the news removes yet another hurdle to lower rates.

Mr Clarke and Mr George met yesterday afternoon for an hour and, while a minority in the City believes a rate cut could be announced today, most think it is too soon after rates were cut by a quarter point in December.

A picture of sluggish economic growth was backed up by news of a 7,900 fall in unemployment in December, one of the smallest monthly falls in recent months.

The only worrying sign for inflation was news of a pick up in unit labour costs, which were up 4 per cent year on year in the three months ended November. This is because manufacturing output has been slowing but employment rising, leading to a fall in productivity and a rise in unit labour costs. However, weaker output is also depressing factory gate prices, which is crucially important to future retail price inflation.

Also announced was a £1 billion public sector borrowing requirement for December. This was higher than the City had expected but was largely due to a change in the timing of interest payments. Most economists believe that the PSBR is on track to meet the Government's full-year forecast of £29 billion.

The City is now eagerly awaiting today's figures for retail prices and retail sales.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3704.2	(-6.4)
Yield	3.88%	
FT-SE All share	1811.80	(-2.44)
Nasdaq	20570.35	(+3.19)
New York		
Dow Jones	6082.44	(-5.78)
S&P Composite	608.96	(+0.52)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	11 1/4%	(11.11%)
Yield	6.04%	(6.07%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	8 1/4%	(8.5%)
6-mth long bill	11 1/4%	(11.11%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5268*	(1.5350)
London		
DM	1.5245	(1.5375)
FF	2.2255	(2.2436)
FF	7.5380	(7.6700)
SF	1.8098	(1.8058)
Yen	160.75	(162.57)
£ Index	83.2	(83.4)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.4853*	(1.4857)
FF	5.0085*	(5.0095)
SF	1.1838*	(1.1825)
Yen	105.32*	(105.97)
£ Index	85.4	(85.2)
Tokyo close Yen 108.13		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.50	(unq)
GOLD		
London close	\$397.46	(\$397.00)
* denotes midday trading price		

Lloyds talks

Britain's second largest chemists may soon be in new hands after revealing that it is in talks with a potential buyer. Lloyds Chemists, which also owns the Holland & Barratt health food chain, said it was talking to one interested party with whom it has been in discussion for some time. Lloyds shares News of the discussions sent the share price up 75p to 306p. Page 27

Bank worries

The relationship between banks and small businesses still has scope for improvement. Page 30

Forte battle enters its final throes

By Eric Reguly

THE decisive moment in the battle for Forte comes tomorrow, when both Forte and Granada hold their final meeting with Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager whose support is considered crucial to the bid's outcome.

MAM owns about 15 per cent of Forte, making it the single largest shareholder of the hotels and restaurants group. Forte's chances of remaining independent will be considerably weakened unless it can convince MAM that Granada's £3.8 billion offer does not adequately reflect Forte's potential future value.

Granada yesterday bought another 8.3 million Forte shares, paying 384p apiece, to raise its stake to 9.9 per cent. The Forte family owns approximately 8 per cent of Forte, but its management hopes to retain many of the individual shareholders.

Leading article, page 19

Tesco leads the winners over the festive period

By Sarah Bagnall

MIXED news emerged from the high street yesterday on trading over the festive period with Tesco claiming it had enjoyed its finest Christmas, while Body Shop issued a surprise profit warning.

Tesco lifted like-for-like sales by 8.5 per cent in the 20 weeks to December 30 and by 10 per cent in the four weeks leading up to the new year. Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco chairman, said: "This was the best Christmas we have ever had. This reflects the success of Clubcard as well as our Christmas range." The company's shares suffered from news of price pledges from Esso and Shell that threaten to erode Tesco's petrol sales. The shares slipped 7 1/2 p to 308p.

The Body Shop, the eco-friendly cosmetics group, reported flat like-for-like sales in the ten weeks to December 30. It blamed the difficult retail climate in the US, reflected in



MacLaurin: delighted

a 7 per cent drop in like-for-like sales in the US, for a warning that pre-tax profits for the year to February were expected to fall slightly short of last year's £3.5 million. The shares were 1p down at 151p.

Kingfisher, the Comet to Woolworths group, revealed strong sales in some parts of its empire. Overall sales jumped 8.8 per cent in the ten

weeks to January 6 and like-for-like sales rose 3.9 per cent. Woolworths and Comet sales were offset by falls at B&Q and Darty. The 7.5 per cent advance at Woolworths removed any vestige of concern that the chain would suffer a repeat of the previous year's profit warning. Kingfisher's share rose 9p to 538p.

Alders, the department store and international duty-free retailer, fared similarly. In the 15 weeks to January 13, the department stores mustered an 8.5 per cent advance in sales and a 1 per cent rise in like-for-like sales. Duty-free sales leapt 45 per cent. Shares rose 3p to 176p.

□ The use of credit and debit cards by British consumers reached a record-breaking £7.9 billion in December, up a huge 20 per cent from last Christmas, according to the Credit Card Research Group.

Loyalty card, page 26
Tempus, page 28

Finance panel overhaul

By Ross Tieman

THE Private Finance Panel, which advises the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, on his plans to replace £14 billion of public spending with private sector projects, is being overhauled in an effort to give the initiative new impetus.

Ten members of the 16-strong panel are stepping down, while only three new recruits will join. They are Glen Folwell, finance director of the Halifax Building Society; Robin Fox, vice-chairman of merchant bank Kleinwort Benson Group and Alastair Ross Goobey, chief executive of Hermes Pensions Management.

Seven members of the new nine-person panel will each take responsibility for oversight of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects within a particular ministry.

Among those leaving the panel are Howard Davies, the deputy governor of the Bank of England.

Timetable for European bank 'not viable'

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent



Tugendhat: pro-European

A EUROPEAN central bank is unworkable under current economic and political conditions in Europe and should be postponed. To suggest that the 1999 single currency timetable is viable "flies in the face of the facts", according to Lord Tugendhat, a former European Commissioner.

Lord Tugendhat, a staunch pro-European and chairman of Abbey National, Britain's fifth biggest bank, cast doubt over the likely success of the central bank proposal at a dinner in London last night, the first time a senior British banker has publicly attacked the proposals.

He said that among the most important objectives of the proposed European central bank "is that it should maintain a

greater degree of monetary stability within the participating states as a group than could otherwise be achieved". To do that, decisions must be made that are "often painful and unpopular". Such decisions affect "not just markets but jobs, the prosperity of many people and the profits, even the existence of individual firms", he said.

The institution charged with making such decisions had to be able to act quickly and decisively "and its decisions must be fully and simultaneously implemented throughout the jurisdiction to which they apply". But Lord Tugendhat said it was questionable whether European Union institutions, such as a central bank, at the present time or for the next few years "will enjoy the moral and practical authority required to carry such responsibilities".

He also said that the current record of implementation and observance of EU rules in member states "can best be described as patchy".

Lord Tugendhat said that he was in favour of single currency and of a European central bank, but only when conditions were right. This meant extending the scope of the single market, ensuring that the economies of member states are in underlying equilibrium, seeing that there is sustained growth, seeing that there would not be a negative effect on employment across member states, and ensuring that public opinion is clearly in favour of the move.

Lord Tugendhat added: "It is more important to get it right than to meet an arbitrary deadline. This timetable is not reasonable and it does not reflect the underlying realities."

James Capel welcomes Private Clients

Best known as institutional stockbrokers, we are also one of the leading private client investment managers in the UK, providing individual portfolio services from £100,000 for both domestic and offshore clients, either in London or through our Channel Islands company.

For further information, please contact:
Lucinda Corrie,
James Capel & Co. Limited,
Investment Management,
6 Bevis Marks, London, EC3A 7JQ.
Telephone: 0171-621 0011. Facsimile: 0171-283 3187



James Capel

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

This advertisement is issued by James Capel & Co. Limited, Regulated by SFA and a member of the London Stock Exchange.

Member HSBC Group

Loyalty Visa launched by Budgens

By Sarah Bagnall

BUDGENS, the South East-based food retailer, yesterday launched a loyalty card with a difference — a Visa card.

John von Spreckelsen, chief executive, said: "It is a unique card. It has features that make it far superior to anything else in the market."

Launched in conjunction with The Associates, an American finance organisation owned by the Ford Group, the Budgens Visa card is unusual in that users can still accrue points if they shop at rival supermarket groups but use their Budgens card to pay.

Mr von Spreckelsen said the initial target audience for the card was the group's one million shoppers. Currently only 26 per cent of its customers use cards. Budgens is not incurring any of the costs of the card and as a result the scheme will not dilute earnings.

The news came as Budgens revealed a rise in pre-tax profits from £900,000 to £1.3 million in the 26 weeks to November 12, helped by the group abandoning Penny Market, the loss-incurring discount venture. This helped to lift gross margins, while the replacement format, Freshave, helped to lift sales. Sales rose from £150.1 million to £162.6 million and like-for-like sales rose 4.5 per cent. The interim dividend, due April 11, was up for the first time in several years, from 0.3p to 0.35p, and is payable out of earnings of 2.1p (0.4p). Shares rose 1p to 34½p.



John von Spreckelsen, chief executive, with a mock-up of the Budgens Visa card which also rewards customers for loyalty

Pru falls as rivals' sales increase

By Marianne Curphy

THREE of the UK's major life companies showed gains in new business during 1995 while the Prudential's sales fell 8 per cent during what it described as a "difficult" year.

Sales of annual premium life and pension products at the Prudential, the UK's biggest insurance company, both fell 8 per cent to £244 million and £2,027 billion respectively as the public remained reluctant to buy pensions and life products after the mis-selling scandal.

Worldwide, annual sales were down 3 per cent to £500 million and single premium sales down 11 per cent to £4.47 billion in the year to December 31.

While the fall throughout the industry was an average 15 per cent in 1995, General Accident, which assumed control of the pensions provider Provident Mutual on January 1, reported a 53 per cent increase in total new premiums.

Scottish Life unveiled increases in group and individual pensions business but a drop in mortgage sales, and Scottish Widows reported total new premium income up 41 per cent to £1,005 million.

The value of General Accident's new business reached a record £936 million, comprising £894 million of new single premiums and £42.3 million of new annual premiums.

General Accident admitted that several hundred staff out of 3,200 employed by General Accident Life after its takeover of Provident Mutual could be shed under restructuring plans. Peter Hales, assistant general manager, said 100 jobs had already gone.

Whitehall concedes rate of jobless fall is slowing

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government now recognises that the downward trend in unemployment is declining. This was made clear by Whitehall officials yesterday when they announced a further, but lower than expected, fall of 7,400 in the number out of work and claiming benefit.

Ministers claimed the decline was "clear evidence" of the success of the Government's economic policies, though opposition leaders warned that figures meant a looming return of recession.

New figures published by the Central Statistical Office confirmed the blunder by Michael Heseltine, Deputy

Prime Minister, who disclosed the 28th successive monthly fall in unemployment remains 10.45 million, though they produced figures to show that since unemployment fell from its peak in December 1992 — it is now down 741,600 since then — the rate of decrease is clearly declining.

In 1993, unemployment fell by 16,500 a month, by a monthly average of 33,100 in 1994 and by 15,100 a month in 1995. Over the past six months it has fallen by an average of 12,800, and over the past three by 9,500 before last month's fall of 7,400. A Whitehall statistician said: "There are signs that the downward trend

has been declining since 1994." Last month's figures rose because more people were joining the unemployment count and fewer people left it. The flow of people joining the count rose by 2,200 to 295,800 while the number of people leaving it dropped by 8,500 to 305,000.

Separate figures from the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey showed a 7,000 rise in the number of claimants, unemployed, as measured on the internationally-accepted ILO basis, though Whitehall officials insisted that the increase was largely a "sampling fluctuation" and should not be given undue significance. ILO unemployment in the autumn quarter fell by 15,000 to 2.4 million.

At the same time, the stock of vacancies at JobCentres fell by 3,400 in the month to December, and placings into jobs fell by 700.

Ministers denied any significance in the lower-than-expected fall in claimant unemployment. Eric Forth, Education and Employment minister, said: "Figures will inevitably fluctuate from month to month." But Labour said the "small drop masks the growing evidence of a return to recession".

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said the figures showed that the "recovery is beginning to peter out", and called on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to cut interest rates immediately.

Figures from the CSO showed a big increase in days lost through industrial action last November — up to 69,000 over the month compared to 24,000 in October and just 17,000 in November 1994.

Lloyd's to insist on 'passport' to work

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

LLOYD'S of London's regulators are to authorise individual market professionals for the first time. David Gittings, who succeeded Rosalind Gilmore as head of regulation, said that tests applied would include competence, as shown for instance by a manager's underwriting record.

The drive for individual passports to work at the insurance market is part of a plan to make regulation more like that under the Financial Services Act. Sir Alan Hardcastle, chairman of Lloyd's Regulatory Board, unveiled the first annual regulatory plan yesterday. He said that openness was one of the main recommendations of the review by Miss Gilmore.

Authorising individuals to trade depends on agreeing a code of business conduct, similar to those promoted by the Securities and Investments Board. Sir Alan hopes to complete the code this month.

Sir Alan said that authorisation would initially apply to between 4,000 and 6,000 key individuals in agencies, mostly directors and underwriting managers. Mr Gittings hopes to process these within a year of people having to apply, probably in the Spring. No time has been set for authorisation to be needed to trade, but Sir Alan insisted that existing professionals would not automatically qualify, saying: "Some will have to leave or will not apply."

The board will also monitor firms more often, streamline disciplinary procedures, make firms liable for employees and bring in a tariff of fines for minor failings.

Pennington, page 27

Productivity falling for first time in ten years

By Our Industrial Editor

PRODUCTIVITY is falling in Britain for the first time for ten years, new Government figures showed yesterday.

The productivity totals — especially when coupled with continuing rising unit labour costs — although average earnings growth remained flat — will dispirit business leaders striving to improve UK industrial competitiveness.

New figures from the Central Statistical Office showed that manufacturing output per head in the three months to November fell 0.1 per cent compared with a year before.

Although this is a very small fall, it marks the first decline in the three-month productivity figures — monthly totals show greater volatility — since March 1986, when output per head also fell 0.1 per cent.

At the same time, the rise in unit wage costs in manufacturing industry accelerated. Business leaders regard unit wage costs as a key indicator of Britain's competitive performance.

In the period, wages and salaries per unit of output in manufacturing industry rose 4 per cent compared with a year previously. This marks a rise from the 3.7 per cent increase in November, and continues a steadily rising trend.

But average earnings remained stable, with the underlying rise for the whole economy rising for the fifth

successive month by 3.25 per cent. But some economists continued to be concerned about earnings, saying that an upswing in earnings growth probably inevitable in the coming months.

However, public sector pay specialists said the flat earnings growth might mean public sector workers falling behind when the Government announces — probably by early next month — the awards from the pay review bodies for 1.5 million employees.

Chris Trinder, chief economist of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, said: "Public sector workers in 1996 could have their worst year since 1990."

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BRANBLE, GUY OFFER of £100,000 to the first person to identify a person who has been involved in the fraud of the late Mr. Guy Branble. The offer is open until 31st March 1996. For more information, contact the Police at 0171-782 7344.

BRANBLE, GUY OFFER of £100,000 to the first person to identify a person who has been involved in the fraud of the late Mr. Guy Branble. The offer is open until 31st March 1996. For more information, contact the Police at 0171-782 7344.

BRANBLE, GUY OFFER of £100,000 to the first person to identify a person who has been involved in the fraud of the late Mr. Guy Branble. The offer is open until 31st March 1996. For more information, contact the Police at 0171-782 7344.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT of an administrator of the estate of the late Mr. Guy Branble. The appointment is made by the Court of Probate. For more information, contact the Police at 0171-782 7344.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT of an administrator of the estate of the late Mr. Guy Branble. The appointment is made by the Court of Probate. For more information, contact the Police at 0171-782 7344.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT of an administrator of the estate of the late Mr. Guy Branble. The appointment is made by the Court of Probate. For more information, contact the Police at 0171-782 7344.

Blinder leaving Fed

Advocate of lower US rates to quit

ALAN BLINDER, Deputy Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and a strong advocate of lower US interest rates, is to step down when his term of office expires at the end of this month.

Mr Blinder's departure will remove the chief supporter at the Fed of a more relaxed monetary policy. In late 1994, and over the past few months, he has argued that the softening of the US economy required lower interest rates to avoid the risk of recession.

His view has increasingly gained ground at the Fed and most economists now expect the central bank to cut the rate by about half a percentage point at its next meeting on January 30.

Mr Blinder's departure virtually ensures that the top Fed appointments remain in the hands of Republican sympathisers. Mr Blinder was President Bill Clinton's most influential appointee at the Fed and when he was appointed two years ago was touted as a possible successor to Alan Greenspan as chairman.

However, the Republican majority in Congress appears to have put paid to that. Mr Greenspan's second four-year term expires in March but he



Greenspan: 'staying on'

is widely expected to be reappointed by the President, even though he was originally a Republican appointee.

Mr Blinder, an academic from Princeton University and a lifelong Keynesian, often drew criticism from Wall Street for his willingness to tolerate a degree of inflation to keep the economy growing.

His departure leaves two vacancies on the seven-member Fed board, which the President must fill. It is doubtful, however, whether Mr Clinton will be able to get Congressional approval for anyone who shares Mr Blinder's economic views.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Partial settlement over Exxon disaster

EXXON, the world's largest oil company, has reached a partial settlement of \$300 million in its suit against Lloyd's of London and other underwriters over the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, which resulted in a \$5 billion punitive fine in 1994. The suit sought to recover insurance for part of Exxon's expenses as cargo owner. The Exxon Valdez supertanker spilled 11 million gallons of oil, polluting 1,500 miles of shoreline.

Lee Raymond, Exxon chairman, said he was "pleased" with the partial settlement but added that the company still has "substantial insurance claims pending with Lloyd's and other underwriters". Exxon said a trial date, set for April 8, has been planned in the State District of Harris County, Texas, to address those claims. Exxon also yesterday settled a \$3.5 million deal over thousands of miscellaneous damages claims that could help to speed up payouts by the company, although plaintiffs believe settlement could still take years.

Intel disappoints

INTEL, the world's largest microchip maker, reported a surge in earnings and revenues for the final quarter of last year but failed to match Wall Street's expectations and raised fears of a slowdown in computer sales this year. The company, which is seen as a bellwether for the computer industry, said revenues rose 42 per cent to \$4.58 billion, while earnings doubled to \$867 million, or 98 cents a share. Analysts, who had been expecting about \$1.12 per share, were disappointed. The gloom deepened when Intel said revenues were unlikely to grow during the next few months.

US report hurts Medeva

SHARES of Medeva, the pharmaceutical company, fell more than 5 per cent yesterday, after the US Food and Drug Administration reported that the company's leading drug can cause cancer tumours in some mice. The drug, methyphenol, which is used to treat hyperactivity in children, caused liver tumours in male mice fed 30 times the normal dose for two years. Medeva said it did not expect the results to reduce the sales of the drug significantly. Analysts downplayed fears that the FDA report would be damaging. They noted that the FDA still recommends the drug.

BET wins pension case

A HIGH COURT test case on pension rights brought by 11 "dinner ladies" and affecting 3,000 former part-time employees of Lancashire County Council was yesterday decided in favour of employers. Judge Robert Walker ruled that BET Catering Services was entitled not to accept the women, who had worked for the council and been members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, into its company scheme because they earned under £15,000 a year. The ruling means that under EC law firms taking over state services, or the assets of a business, need not provide pension benefits for transferring employees.

Greene King sells shops

GREENE KING has largely bailed out of wine retailing, blaming the increasing role of supermarkets and the boom in cross-channel drink imports, with the sale of 21 shops to Victoria Wine. A spokeswoman for the regional brewer said it had suffered a steady decline in the business of the chain of Thos. Peatling wine merchants in East Anglia and would now focus on mail order sales, keeping just three of the stores open. She said the brewer had seen a falling off in retail sales over the past few years. No price has been disclosed for the deal.

BankAmerica boost

BANKAMERICA, the second largest bank in the US, reported strong growth in earnings for the fourth quarter of last year from \$591 million to \$704 million. Earnings were \$1.74 a share, up from \$1.41 a year ago and compared with estimates of around \$1.68. For the whole year, earnings rose from \$2.1 billion to \$2.7 billion, in line with the strong performance of most US banks over the same period. BankAmerica said its lending had risen by 10 per cent and non-interest income was also up on the previous year.

SFA silent on probe

THE Securities and Futures Authority, the watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, yesterday declined to confirm or deny mounting City speculation that two companies within the Winchester Commodities Group — Winchester Brokerage and Winchester Asset Management — are being investigated for alleged rule breaches. However, the SFA did confirm that the two companies were registered as members, as is Charles Vincent, one of the directors of the group.

British Gas buys fields

BRITISH GAS has bought a £20 million portfolio of gas fields and licences to explore for oil and gas in Italy from Fiat, the carmaker. Some three million cubic feet of gas a year will continue to be pumped to Fiat to fuel its car and other engineering plants. However, British Gas plans to explore for oil in the southern Apennines, where large oil deposits have been found by other companies. Fiat and British Gas already have a joint venture to install and operate gas-burning combined heat and electricity plants in Fiat factories. Complications, page 29

Nynex optimistic

NYNEX CableComms, the second largest cable company, reported yesterday that its cable-television penetration increased from 19.8 per cent to 24.6 per cent in the quarter to December 31. Cable-television penetration, however, rose only marginally to 19.8 per cent. A spokesman said that the company is "disappointed" with television penetration, but expects a renewed marketing effort, including a national advertising campaign in March, to lift the figure. Annual earnings will be released next month.

MPs to debate Rom Data

MPs are to hold a full-scale debate next week on how £850,000 of taxpayers' money was poured into a West Country computer firm when one of the directors had a troubled financial history (Robert Miller writes).

The DTI yesterday confirmed that an investigation into how DTI officials failed to run checks and discover that John Dawson, a former director of Rom Data Corporation of Falmouth, was a discharged bankrupt, has been completed.

Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, has promised MPs that he will reveal the results of the report to MPs and could do so during the debate next Wednesday.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	216	2.00
Austria S	18.85	15.23
Belgium Fr	49.24	44.94
Canada \$	2.308	2.048
Czech Kor	0.780	0.686
Denmark Kr	8.31	8.51
France F	7.37	6.56
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Grasso Dr	350.00	365.00
Hong Kong \$	12.51	11.51
India Ru	1.02	0.94
Italy Lira	5.180	4.540
Japan Yen	258.00	208.00
Malaysia M	3.81	3.56
Netherlands Gld	0.691	0.596
New Zealand \$	2.46	2.24
Portugal Esc	200.00	180.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	153.60
Sweden Kr	10.66	9.86
Switzerland Fr	1.92	1.77
Switzerland Fr	1.92	1.77
USA \$	1.82	1.62

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

هكذا من الأصل

□ Tugendhat sounds a note of caution □ Paying for the North Sea bubble □ Lime Street follows in Gilmore's footsteps

The doubts of a Europhile

WHEN a Europhile like Lord Tugendhat is forced to make a public attack on the concept of a European central bank, and by implication on the chances of economic and monetary union, it is a clear sign that the road is turning against the current EMU timetable.

Lord Tugendhat is only voicing what Britain's most senior bankers have been saying privately at lunches and dinners in the City for months. But since Abbey National has more to gain from a single currency than its rivals, which have massive foreign exchange trading systems, perhaps he feels that he is in a stronger position to speak out.

He has been one of the biggest supporters of the European Union and a great believer that a single market needs a single currency. But he sensibly questions the wisdom of being a slave to a timetable that does not reflect the underlying realities.

There is a growing awareness that the move towards a single currency is being driven by the will of the politicians, not of the public. Indeed, there is little evidence of any public yearning within the community, outside one or two special interest groups, for closer economic ties. But once politicians have set themselves a firm deadline they are unwilling to give it up, even though the whole Maastricht

debate showed the need to ensure a degree of public support before attempting to implement anything that would have a radical effect on people's lives.

If the current timetable remains in place and a single currency and a European central bank is imposed on a reluctant or, at best, acquiescent but surly European population, not only will it be difficult to convince them that the new institution carries sufficient moral and practical authority, the international capital markets will soon recognise it is based on a political fudge rather than on solid economic criteria.

The strikes in France showed that when the French impose painful economic decisions on the French, the result is civil unrest. The unification of East and West German currencies was tricky, even though it had overwhelming political and public support. How popular would such measures be if imposed from outside, by Eurocrats?

Lord Tugendhat is suggesting an unspecified delay before another timetable for implementation is set. But there is a

Catch 22 here. If there is no timetable, there is unlikely to be a single currency or a European central bank.

If the current timetable is imposed on Europe and a system rushed in when economic criteria are not achieved and public will is not behind it, and when it cannot be shown that there will be a beneficial rather than a negative effect on everyone's lives, it will never be met.

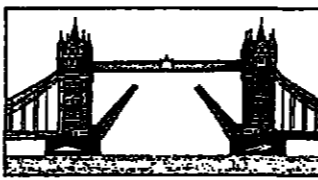
The gasman cometh

AT British Gas it is put up or shut up time, time for the Government to decide just who foots the cost of the £40 billion forward contracts that have gone sour for Britain's most unpopular utility.

The candidates are the customer, the public exchequer, British Gas shareholders, the North Sea producers — or any combination of the above. A mix-and-match is most likely, but it will be a judgment of Solomon to share out the burden fairly.

The easiest option is a straight

PENNINGTON



levy on all gas shipped, to cover the eventual losses. The loser, the customer, who sees fewer benefits from competition in the domestic market, whenever that may eventually arrive. The drawback: political, in that the consumer pays for British Gas's earlier mistakes, and much of the benefit of one of the Government's most prized policies is lost shortly before an election. Probability: less than 25 per cent.

The next option is to allow the losses to be recouped by adjusting the regulatory formulae governing future price rises. The loser: the customer again, as prices are kept artificially high. The drawback: the regulator has already set her mind against this — although regulators' minds

can be changed. Probability: rather less than 25 per cent.

The next solution is a straight smash-and-grab on public finances, whether by adjusting the tax regime or by more direct methods. The loser: you and me. The drawback: hideously political — your tax revenues going to keep Cedric Brown in the style to which he is accustomed. Probability: negligible.

Option four is to allow nature to take its course, with no levy, contract renegotiation, or any other sop to the British Gas shareholders, deprived of future dividend growth. The drawback: not the greatest advertisement for privatisation ahead of the Railtrack and British Energy floats. Probability: pretty good, if combined with:

Option five: club the North Sea producers into reaching agreement with British Gas over renegotiation of the contracts. The loser: the customers, because of higher prices than otherwise, British Gas, because there will have to be some give and take on either side, and the producers, because ditto. The

drawback: it would take some crude and public arm-twisting, in the form of veiled tax threats, to bring the producers to the table. But it's a tough world. Probability: overwhelming. But time, and ministers, will tell.

Lloyd's gears up for statutory regulation

LLOYD'S Regulatory Board is making its machinery look as much as possible like the self-regulatory organisations that nestle under the nervous skirts of the Securities and Investments Board. If groups such as the all-party Treasury Select Committee get their way and Lloyd's is brought into a new, statutorily independent framework after the election, disruption need not be so great.

The trend to corporate capital, plus new rights to hold and auction participation in syndicates, make it academic whether the traditional system of underwriting names could be classed as investment for the purposes of the Financial Services Act. The brave new attempt

to authorise individuals as well as firms to trade carries the footprints of Rosalind Gilmore, the short-lived former head of regulation. It makes Lloyd's a hybrid, in FSA terms, between a recognised exchange and a regulator such as the Securities and Futures Association. This begs the question whether Lloyd's should do both or whether the dual functions of the old London Stock Exchange should have been divided in the first place.

Meanwhile, individual authorisation, increased monitoring and a more routine disciplinary system should hasten the trend to a slimmer, more professional but duller, less potentially profitable Lloyd's. As usual at Lloyd's, however, the change will depend on how far its barons allow the new regulatory plan to be put into purposeful action.

Number crunch

STUNG by the Treasury Select Committee's charge that he tends towards pessimism on inflation, Eddie George has his first chance today to show that he has turned over a new leaf. Although nobody seriously believes that rates are coming down at once, watch for the Bank of England's money market operations at 10.15 this morning. A flat set of retail trade and inflation numbers, and you never know.

Wolf will sink teeth in USAir unions

USAir, which is 25 per cent owned by British Airways, has appointed a tough new chairman and chief executive to handle key negotiations with its unions.

Stephen Wolf, who stepped down as head of United Airways in 1994, replaces the outgoing chairman, Seth Schofield. Mr Schofield is leaving partly because he failed to secure concessions from USAir's powerful unions. The company, which has the highest cost structure in the industry, has said it is aiming for cuts of around \$300 million.

A priority of the new chairman is likely to be the deepening of USAir's relationship with BA, although this will require delicate handling in the face of Congressional opposition to the foreign ownership of US airlines.

Photo-Me warning

Shares in Photo-Me International fell 8p to 125p after the world's leading photo booth maker and operator announced first-half profits with a warning of lower full-year profits. The company, which also runs copiers, express print services and automatic film processing systems, blames the anticipated shortfall on the recent French strikes.

Photo-Me's pre-tax profits edged up to £10.1 million in the six months to October 31, compared with £10 million last time, on turnover ahead 8.4 per cent to £104.4 million. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p and is payable on April 9.

Imro takes action

Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, said that investigations and disciplinary proceedings were in progress against some of its members over past pension transfer business. The potential rule breaches, possibly involving "systemic failing" in the sales process, came to light as a result of the industry-wide review of the personal pensions mis-selling scandal.

Bid talks lift shares in Lloyds Chemists

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE second-biggest chemist in the high street may soon be in new hands after revealing that it is in talks with a potential buyer.

Lloyds Chemists, which also owns the Holland & Barratt health food chain, said it was talking to one interested party with whom it has been in discussion for some time. News of the discussions sent the share price leaping 75p to 366p, while the market jostled with an array of possible suspects.

Many large retailers were cited, although much of the spotlight fell on UniChem, the pharmacy chain. The move would make for good synergy if UniChem could clear any monopolies concerns. Shares in UniChem fell 10p to 239p.

Boots, which is the largest chemist in the UK, has also been touted, although the regulatory hurdles the company would face would be considerable. Similarly, Asda and Tesco have been mentioned because of their developing interests in pharmaceutical retailing, but both stores have indicated that they are not in the running.

There would be some administrative difficulty in a large supermarket chain completely absorbing the Lloyds business because of its family health service association contracts. Such contracts are controlled so that in any area there is only a certain number of outlets that are allowed to sell prescribed drugs. The transfer of those contracts to

such a supermarket chain or other controlling company would be likely to meet with opposition from local pharmacies.

Lloyds told the Stock Exchange before the market opened yesterday that it had received an approach which could lead to an offer being made for its entire share capital. It made the announcement after the share price had climbed in the previous day's trading.

The company said it was consulting Samuel Montagu, its financial advisers, Rupert Faure Walker, a corporate finance director of the merchant bank, said that a further announcement was likely by the chemist, which has 900 branches and owns 300 Hol-

land & Barratt outlets, within several days.

Mr Faure Walker would give no indication of the bidder's identity except that there was only one name in the frame.

At yesterday's share price, Lloyds was worth £465 million, while analysts are suggesting that the buyer may have to pay a premium in the order of 20 per cent.

Lloyds has been the subject of bid speculation for some time, with the rumours escalating as the retail pharmaceutical market has become increasingly competitive. Margins in the drug stores have been slimmed by fiercer pricing from rivals.

Tempus, page 28

Gartmore stake still up for sale

GARTMORE, the UK fund management group, said no buyer has been secured for the 75 per cent interest in the company held by Banque Indosuez. The stake was put up for sale in September (Patricia Tehan writes).

Negotiations are believed to have foundered on the widely differing views of the buyers and sellers over how to price Gartmore.

Its shares fell 9p yesterday to 245p, valuing the firm at £512 million. Bankgesellschaft Berlin, the state-owned German bank, had come closest to reaching a deal with Gartmore, though no final offer was made. It is understood to remain interested.

In a brief statement to the Stock Exchange, Gartmore said: "Banque Indosuez continues to seek to dispose of its shareholding and is in contact with a number of potentially interested parties."

Dance division lifts First Leisure

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

FIRST LEISURE, the sports and amusements group, waltzed to a 7 per cent increase in profits at £40 million for 1995 helped by a strong performance from its dancing and bowling divisions.

The dividend was increased 10 per cent to 7.72p but the company was cautious on trading for 1996 and shares fell 19p to 349p.

John Conlon, chief executive, said: "We are very close to the consumer and feel that there has been a fall-off in spending growth. But we are confident of meeting our medium-term objectives."

The star performer was the dancing division where profits were up 17 per cent to £18 million and turnover increased 14 per cent to £57 million. The company said that last year admissions total-

led a record seven million and it was looking to open a further 20 discos over the next two years.

The sports division profits were also up 17 per cent, to £11 million, with sales ahead 15 per cent to £41.5 million. But profits in the Bingo division suffered from a drop in sales in the smaller outlets and start-up costs associated with the opening of seven new Riva clubs. Sales rose 58 per cent to £15.5 million, while profits fell 14 per cent to £1.9 million. In the resort sector, sales fell 2 per cent to £44.5 million and profits dropped 5 per cent to £10.6 million.

Theatres contributed £600,000 million with its including *Crazy For You* and *Copacabana*. The dividend is due on 10 April.

Tempus, page 28



Peter Lockhead models clothes by Burro, the menswear designer that won the NatWest export award for small businesses at the 1995 British Apparel Export Awards

Wainhomes calls in police over valuations

By PHILIP PANGALOS

POLICE have been called in to Wainhomes and is investigating "valuation irregularities" found at the Cheshire housebuilder's northern division in Standish, Lancashire.

The irregularities are understood to relate to false billings and valuations. Two employees at the group's Wainhomes Northern division have been dismissed and two are suspended pending investigations. The group estimates that the effect of adjusting work-in-progress to take account of the irregularities will result in an additional charge to building costs of about £2 million. Some of this relates to the year to March 31, 1995. The accounts were audited by KPMG.

Ron Smith, Wainhomes' chief executive, has been dismissed, although the group said he was not involved in the irregularities.

Mr Smith sold 20 per cent of his stake in the company, realising £1.1 million, when it was floated in 1994. He was on a two-year contract and is understood to have received £192,000 last year as well as £12,000 of pension contributions, which may entitle him to a £400,000-plus payoff. Terms are being discussed.

Reach the Japanese Tourist Market



The number of Japanese tourists coming to the UK is constantly growing — 600,000 in 1995. Now is a great time to promote your business in this very profitable market! As one of the world's leading Japanese tour operators MIKI TRAVEL knows the great potential this market has for all kinds of retail and service businesses. We are now producing a travellers' handbook to Britain in Japanese. It will be distributed to our higher-budget clients — those with the most free time and money to spend!

30,000 copies are to be printed. This would be the ideal place to advertise any British business which may benefit from the high-spending Japanese tourist market.

Prices for advertising start at only £870, (all full-colour) but spaces are limited. So contact us for further details now so your business doesn't miss out!

Contact: Mr Osamu Shiraiishi or Vivienne Coates on (0171) 398 5140 Miki Travel Limited, 18/20 Cannon Street, London EC4M 6XD.

Welsh Water strikes a deal with Ofwat

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

WELSH WATER has struck a compromise with the water regulator over its bid for South Wales Electricity only days before the Director-General of Fair Trading is due to reach a decision on the takeover.

Ian Byatt, the Director-General of Water Services, had called for the water business of the merged utility to be listed on the Stock Exchange separately to enable price transparency and so he could monitor other aspects of the business. But Welsh refused saying arguing that the requirements of a separate board

for the business and selling off a percentage of the share capital would defeat many benefits of a takeover. It complained that such demands were not placed on North West Water when it bought Norweb.

Various conditions have now been agreed which stop short of Mr Byatt's demand for separate listing, which he now intends to pursue on an industry-wide basis.

Part of the compromise includes new issuance of preference shares which would be separately listed.

PENNY SHARES ARE BOOMING!

481%* average gains recorded on shares that cost less than £1 EACH!

It's a fact! Penny Shares could make you a fortune on the Stock Market. Last year the Stock Market's top 5 performing shares made an average profit of 481%. And 4 out of 5 of these amazing movers were Penny Shares!

Penny Shares are often in smaller companies — which is excellent news if you are about to invest. Our research shows that in the 3 years following the last two recessions, smaller companies (and therefore Penny Shares) outperformed the rest of the market by a significant margin. It happened after the '74/'75 slump. It happened after the recession of the early '80s... and now, as we enter a period of dynamic economic recovery, the value of Penny Shares could continue to soar.

So ask yourself — do you have the time it takes to comb the Stock Market week after week? Do you have the contacts who are close enough to the action to let you in on the most promising shares? And do you have the experience to act profitably?

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE WEALTH

Now you can seize this booming market for yourself. PENNY SHARE GUIDE is Britain's premier newsletter for tipping those smaller companies that show the most explosive potential for growth and profit. And you can claim your FREE issue right NOW!

Step by step, share by share, PENNY SHARE GUIDE tells you when to buy, when to hold, and when to sell to minimise your risk and maximise your profits. Today, over 20,000 readers are getting regular supplies of this exclusive advice — and you can discover the unique source of their knowledge when you return the coupon below.

GET YOUR FREE COPY OF PENNY SHARE GUIDE TODAY AND SEE HOW YOU COULD CHANGE THE WAY YOU INVEST FOREVER!

And to help your investments even further, when you subscribe to PENNY SHARE GUIDE you'll receive 3 FREE gifts — 'The 13 Do's and Don'ts of Penny Share Investing' — a pocket guide that lifts the lid on the most successful investment techniques. PLUS the 'Investor's Guide To Stockmarket Success' — a canny lowdown on the world of share investing. PLUS the unique 'Sharecall Directory' lets you monitor the movement of over 2,000 shares any time, anywhere in the UK.

EXTRA EXTRA!

As part of our special introductory offer you'll get more than £30 off your first year's subscription to PENNY SHARE GUIDE — officially £59.50 you can read all 12 info-packed issues for just £25!

CLAIM YOUR FREE COPY NOW

Prepare to be amazed by what you'll read. Take your first step into the exciting world of Penny Shares. Call FREE on 0500 855343 NOW or simply fill in the coupon below (no stamp required) and get the latest issue of PENNY SHARE GUIDE... ABSOLUTELY FREE

Penny Share Guide, FREEPOST, Unit A303, Brooklands Industrial Park, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0BR

*Based on price to mid-price, including starting costs and dividends. Source: Euromoney Top 250 Shares 1994/1995. The past is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investments in smaller companies generally have a higher risk factor and it can be more difficult to realise such an investment. This investment is not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubt, run, don't walk, to your nearest stockbroker.

I want to be a part of today's Penny Share profit boom! Please send me my FREE copy of PENNY SHARE GUIDE PLUS my FREE Penny Share market report pack and details of a special half-price offer for one year's subscription to PENNY SHARE GUIDE.

NAME:

Mr/Mrs/Ms

ADDRESS:

Postcode

Send to: Penny Share Guide, FREEPOST, Unit A303, Brooklands Industrial Park, Weybridge, KT13 0BR (No stamp required)

FREEPHONE 0500 855343



FAHC

Approved by First Steps Publications Ltd. Registered by FIMBA. Descriptive of business available on request. If you do not wish to receive further information from First Steps Publications Ltd. or other company selected to participate in the Guide, please tick box. 2

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Investors take a rest as rate cut fails to appear

INVESTORS decided to take a breather after Tuesday's sharp gains with both equities and government securities giving up early gains.

There was no sign of the expected cut in interest rates after the monthly economic meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Hopes are still high that a further softening in rates will be signalled in the short term.

Certainly, share prices had a fired look about them last night as the FT-SE 100 index saw an early 12-point lead reversed before ending 6.4 lower at 3,704.2.

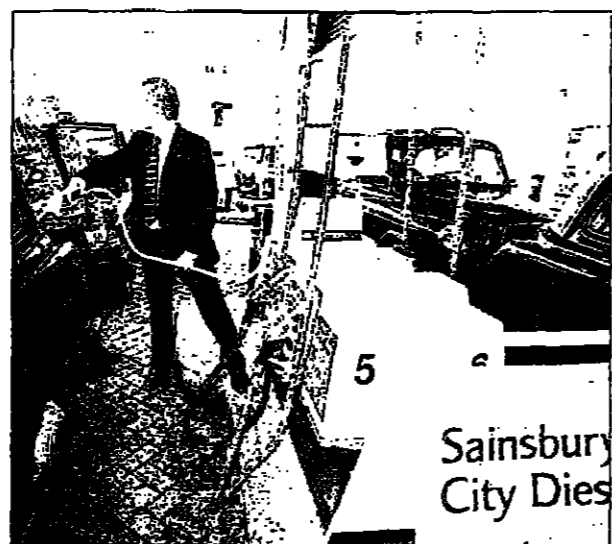
Investors have paid the price for a bad case of wishful thinking in shares of British Gas recently. They have outperformed the market 13 per cent during the past month in the hope that a quick solution could be found to the unprofitable gas supply contract.

But Ofgas, the industry regulator, has thrown a spanner in the works by making it clear that it will not be distracted from its review of the company's gas pipeline business by any problems being suffered over gas supply contracts.

The British Gas share price reacted to the comments with a fall of 12p at 255p as turnover in the shares reached more than 33 million.

News of a bid approach at Lloyds Chemists sent the shares soaring 7p to 366p. It came as little surprise to the City, which has been predicting such a move for months. At these levels, the group is capitalised at £437 million. In the past, its name has been linked with rival Boots, down 5p at 596p, and several supermarket chains, including Tesco and Asda, favourite in the frame now is UniChem, down 10p at 239p.

Tesco moved quickly to deny the rumours linking it with Lloyds Chemists. This came as it gave a rundown of Christmas trading showing a 15.4 per cent rise in sales during the 20 weeks up to December 30. Like-for-like sales were 8.5 per cent ahead. Much of the achievement came on the back of its loyalty card scheme which paid more than £25 million. But the shares failed to benefit, losing 7p to 308p on news of the petrol price announced by Shell and Esso.



Sainsbury shares fell on news of Esso's petrol price cut

Both companies have announced cuts of up to 20p a gallon which is set to hit the likes of independent garage operators like Frost, which reacted with a fall of 10p to 171p. The news of a petrol price war also hit the other big supermarket chains that sell petrol, with J Sainsbury, down 6p to 417p, Argill, 9p to 348p, and Asda, 25p

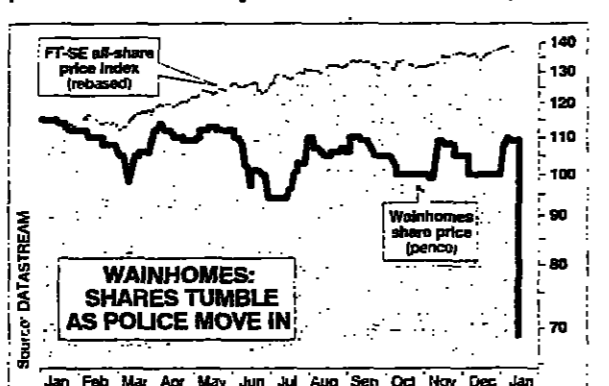
a 10 per cent rise in sales, but the news was no growth in like-for-like sales.

Kingfisher responded to positive trading news with a jump of 9p to 538p. Group sales in the ten weeks to January 6 were up almost 4 per cent. The one black mark was its B&Q subsidiary which saw sales dip 3 per cent in a depressed marketplace.

Shares in TBI, the property investment and development company, firmed 2p to 58p, after Credit Lyonnais Laing issued a buy recommendation. CLL expects TBI, which owns Cardiff airport and recently made a £429 million recommended bid for Molyneux Estates, to be the top performing property share in 1996.

Wainhomes, the housebuilder, with the price plunging 41p to 88p, a fall of almost 38 per cent, after it emerged that the Fraud Squad was looking at the company's affairs.

The group has also issued a profits warning claiming that profitability for the year is likely to be materially below current market expectations.



Brokers had been looking for a final figure of £8.2 million, compared with £10 million the previous year. Wainhomes was floated at 170p in October 1994.

Medeva fell 14p to 259p after the US and Food Drug Administration indicated that tests on rats with the group's methylphenidate drug indicated that it may cause cancer. Methylphenidate is used to treat hyperactivity.

Photo-Me International, the photo-booth operator, fell 8p to 125p after issuing a profits warning. An expected improvement in profits during the second half had failed to materialise and would result in a short-fall of between 5 per cent and 10 per cent on the year. Pre-tax profits at the half year stage were just ahead at £10.1 million.

Stanley Leisure is like any other bookmaker. It found the going difficult after the introduction of the National Lottery. Half-year profits fell from £6.1 million to £1.5 million in what Leonard Steinberg, chairman, described as the worst six months in racing he could remember. The shares also trailed in with a fall of 12p to 341p. Bingo is also being hit by the lottery and that left Rank Organisation 9p down at 44p.

GILT-EDGED: The London market attempted to extend Tuesday's sharp gains in early trading still looking for a cut in interest rates. But selling pressure reported on overseas bond markets soon spilled over with prices moving into negative territory later in the day. However, London did manage to put in a late surge, outperforming German bunds as they closed off the bottom.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt reduced the fall on the day to just three ticks finishing at £111 1/16 in hectic trading that saw 94,000 contracts completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 lost five ticks at £103 3/16, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost one tick to £105 1/16. Index-linked issues managed to shrug off the previous days' disappointing performance to finish 1/4 better.

NEW YORK: A rally by high-tech shares preceded a large fall in the Dow Jones industrial average. At midday, it was 5.78 points down at 5,052.44.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)

Dow Jones 5052.44 (-5.78)

S&P Composite 609.90 (-0.52)

Tokyo 20570.26 (+1.19)

Nikkei Average 20570.26 (+1.19)

Hong Kong 10993.92 (-77.33)

Amsterdam 505.00 (+0.44)

Sydney 2280.13 (+5.20)

Frankfurt 2371.10 (+5.57)

Singapore 2390.06 (+1.77)

Brussels 8783.16 (+47.10)

Paris 1966.00 (+1.50)

Zurich 724.30 (-2.58)

London 2753.3 (-7.4)

FT 100 3304.2 (-6.4)

FTSE Mid 250 1735.0 (-1.1)

FTSE-A 350 1837.9 (-2.4)

FTSE-Euro 100 1525.34 (+2.4)

FTSE-AI 100 1814.88 (+3.8)

FTSE-100 2753.3 (-7.4)

FT Fixed Interest 114.87 (-0.01)

FT Govt Sec 95.97 (-0.01)

SEAI Volume 773,000

USM (Daxsm) 190.71 (-0.03)

USM 12.26 (-0.02)

German Mark 1.2300 (-0.0029)

Exchange Index 83.2 (-0.2)

Bank of England official base rate 4.75%

EBSR 1.0486

RPI 149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1997-100

RPI 149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Century Inns 115

Cox Insurance 113

Crown Products 55

Dmatak 72

Jupiter Spill Cap 85

Jupiter Spill Unit 98

Mounchell 69

Northern Petroleum 76

Nim Peim Wms 8

Revelation Pict 100

Rushmore Wynne 34

Sheepmark 8 Wms 64

Unicom Ind (13) 146

Victrex 249

Viewlin 135

Western Selection Ws 2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Eleco Hldgs n/p (28) 2

Ransome n/p (48) 7

SWP Group n/p (21) 1

Seaford Res n/p (65) 2

SoyePharma n/p (4) 4

Sulcliffe Spk n/p (25) 3

Westbury n/p (150) 2

Western Select n/p (14) 4

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Lloyds Chemists 386p (+75p)

Telepec 823p (+80p)

Mortice 205p (+15p)

Azian 173p (+12p)

Eve Group 210p (+10p)

IBC 286p (+13p)

Mersey Docks 408p (+17p)

FALLS:

Wainhomes 88p (-41p)

TIG 171p (-10p)

First Leisure 345p (-14p)

Medeva 259p (-14p)

Micro Focus 803p (-30p)

British Gas 255p (-12p)

Chromacore 310p (-13p)

UniChem 289p (-11p)

M&I 281p (-14p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Small catch for Kingfisher

KINGFISHER produced a sprinkling of good news yesterday which pleased the market but nothing that could yet justify a re-rating. Comet appears to have addressed the appalling stock management problem that has held back its sales. Add to that a little trimming of the gross margin and the electrical retailer enjoyed a badly-needed sales boost. Woolworths also benefited from better stock control and keen pricing, allowing it to hold its ground against the seasonal onslaught from other big retailers, such as Argos.

A modest overall sales advance in real terms and the expectation of a return to profit at Comet should be enough to keep the wolves from boardroom door at Kingfisher although the performance of B&Q is disturbingly weak. Dary is expected to recover quickly from the French strikes and there are hopes of major

sales gains from the introduction of PCs to its range. However, the focus on Kingfisher's French operation poses a question about the rationale for the group. Successful conglomerates need to own market leaders as their is little justification in owning a share in a collection of second-rate assets with no commonality. In Dary, Kingfisher has a premier retailer and B&Q, despite a weak Christmas, arguably meets that criterion.

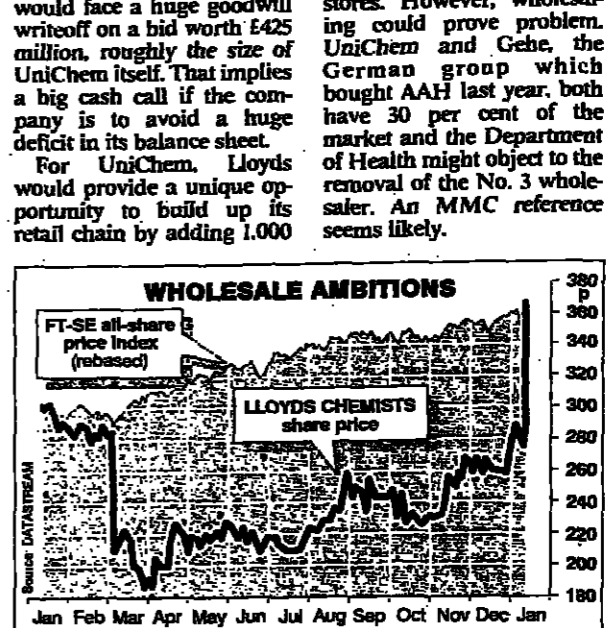
Elsewhere Kingfisher falls down with Superdrug and Comet recovering from losses. Woolworths is the biggest conundrum; a good competitor in provincial high streets but outclassed in city centres. Kingfisher cannot afford to buy its way out of trouble; the cost of good retailing assets would depress its rate of return. The path ahead remains stony and

Lloyds Chemists

A TAKEOVER OF Lloyds Chemists would offer shareholders the happy prospect of a decent return without waiting for the company to sort out its loss-making Supersave drugstores. Lloyds took a hefty £13 million provision last March to close 100 outlets and transform the remainder into new formats but profits before the exceptional charge were flat and the market is expecting meagre earnings growth this year. The share price has gradually recovered but there will be little resistance to an offer from UniChem — the widely rumoured suitor.

A bid at 350p would give shareholders an exit multiple of about 12 times current year earnings, hardly exciting but Lloyds is not a Boots. Price could prove to be a

WHOLESALE AMBITIONS



Tesco

TESCO'S star continues to rise. Nothing like the like-for-like sales growth of 10 per cent over Christmas and 8.5 per cent in the first 20 weeks of the second half is no mean feat.

Market conditions remain tough and show little signs of easing. To gain ground the chains have to win custom from their rivals, a battle Tesco is winning. In the space of a year, its market share has risen from 16.6 per cent to 18.5 per cent in December. In contrast, Sainsbury's share slipped from 17.7 per cent to 17.1 per cent.

Tesco's sales growth has been helped by both Clubcard, which added a couple of points, and inflation of 4.5 per cent, factors which add concern about the group's ability to maintain the momentum. Clubcard's first anniversary is next month and future like-for-like advances will be harder to achieve.

Aggressive price pledges

announced yesterday by Esso and Shell raise the prospect of reduced profits from Tesco's petrol sales. Of the supermarkets, Tesco is the biggest petrol retailer but the business only accounts for about £100 million of gross profits before costs.

There is also a question mark over Tesco's management transition; the partnership of Terry Leahy and David Reid is as yet untested. But these are quibbles which fail to justify Tesco's discount to the sector.

First Leisure

THOSE groovy chaps at First Leisure have an unerring ability to spot the nation's leisure habits. While middle of the road music venues and multiplex-style bingo and bowling are sound purgatory to some, it is clearly no more. The company has now logged 13 straight years of profit increases in what is often a fickle

business

First Leisure is one of the few companies in the sector not winning about the National Lottery. The company would like changes in the law but sees its main task in tempting loose change away from lottery scratch cards and into its bingo outlets. A strong financial position, with good cash generation and low gearing, has enabled the company to increase investment from £34 million to £55 million last year.

The problem for the investor is that square City gents have spotted First Leisure's attractions and the company sits on an expensive rating of 20 times earnings. Cautious words yesterday suggest 1996 will be no more than solid and it will another year before the benefits of new show through. The shares are discounted to go higher but unless the price slips further, better value can be found elsewhere.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES			
LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
May	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jun	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jul	99.40	99.40	109.10
Aug	99.40	99.40	109.10
Sep	99.40	99.40	109.10
Oct	99.40	99.40	109.10
Nov	99.40	99.40	109.10
Dec	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jan	99.40	99.40	109.10
Feb	99.40	99.40	109.10
Mar	99.40	99.40	109.10
Apr	99.40	99.40	109.10
May	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jun	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jul	99.40	99.40	109.10
Aug	99.40	99.40	109.10
Sep	99.40	99.40	109.10
Oct	99.40	99.40	109.10
Nov	99.40	99.40	109.10
Dec	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jan	99.40	99.40	109.10
Feb	99.40	99.40	109.10
Mar	99.40	99.40	109.10
Apr	99.40	99.40	109.10
May	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jun	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jul	99.40	99.40	109.10
Aug	99.40	99.40	109.10
Sep	99.40	99.40	109.10
Oct	99.40	99.40	109.10
Nov	99.40	99.40	109.10
Dec	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jan	99.40	99.40	109.10
Feb	99.40	99.40	109.10
Mar	99.40	99.40	109.10
Apr	99.40	99.40	109.10
May	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jun	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jul	99.40	99.40	109.10
Aug	99.40	99.40	109.10
Sep	99.40	99.40	109.10
Oct	99.40	99.40	109.10
Nov	99.40	99.40	109.10
Dec	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jan	99.40	99.40	109.10
Feb	99.40	99.40	109.10
Mar	99.40	99.40	109.10
Apr	99.40	99.40	109.10
May	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jun	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jul	99.40	99.40	109.10
Aug	99.40	99.40	109.10
Sep	99.40	99.40	109.10
Oct	99.40	99.40	109.10
Nov	99.40	99.40	109.10
Dec	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jan	99.40	99.40	109.10
Feb	99.40	99.40	109.10
Mar	99.40	99.40	109.10
Apr	99.40	99.40	109.10
May	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jun	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jul	99.40	99.40	109.10
Aug	99.40	99.40	109.10
Sep	99.40	99.40	109.10
Oct	99.40	99.40	109.10
Nov	99.40	99.40	109.10
Dec	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jan	99.40	99.40	109.10
Feb	99.40	99.40	109.10
Mar	99.40	99.40	109.10
Apr	99.40	99.40	109.10
May	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jun	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jul	99.40	99.40	109.10
Aug	99.40	99.40	109.10
Sep	99.40	99.40	109.10
Oct	99.40	99.40	109.10
Nov	99.40	99.40	109.10
Dec	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jan	99.40	99.40	109.10
Feb	99.40	99.40	109.10
Mar	99.40	99.40	109.10
Apr	99.40	99.40	109.10
May	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jun	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jul	99.40	99.40	109.10
Aug	99.40	99.40	109.10
Sep	99.40	99.40	109.10
Oct	99.40	99.40	109.10
Nov	99.40	99.40	109.10
Dec	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jan	99.40	99.40	109.10
Feb	99.40	99.40	109.10
Mar	99.40	99.40	109.10
Apr	99.40	99.40	109.10
May	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jun	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jul	99.40	99.40	109.10
Aug	99.40	99.40	109.10
Sep	99.40	99.40	109.10
Oct	99.40	99.40	109.10
Nov	99.40	99.40	109.10
Dec	99.40	99.40	109.10
Jan	99.40	99.40	109.10
Feb	99.40	99.40	109.10

Tom Rhodes in Washington on the latest political storm

A slip which could cost Dole the presidency

THE BLIZZARDS that have swathed Washington in 3ft of snow claimed their most political victim this week when Elizabeth Dole, wife of the leading Republican presidential candidate, slipped on ice and fractured her wrist while out walking the dog.

For Mrs Dole, who has briefly left the presidency of the American Red Cross to pursue her husband's final attempt at the White House, the injury has proved a minor irritation that should heal in time for the campaigning ahead.

A simultaneous political storm, emerging from a long career that has left a trail of policy decisions and private financial transactions, is unlikely to blow away with such ease.

Already *The New Yorker* magazine has turned its spotlight on her past, suggesting she had benefited financially from special treatment because of the political activities of her husband, Senator Robert Dole.

Elizabeth Dole at 59 is fast becoming the most compelling feature of her spouse's campaign, the Republican answer to Hillary Clinton.

Before the fracture, Mrs Dole had started a tour of the country. Not, as in Mrs Clinton's case, to promote a soul-searching book on children and consciously defile an image of hardened harrier, but rather to insist on a new role for America's First Lady.

At each stop, after a reading of the impressive credentials of the only woman to serve in separate Cabinet posts for different Administrations, hosts would introduce Mrs Dole with the identical mantra: "She plans to return to her post as president of the American Red Cross upon her husband's election."

Mrs Dole, married for 20 years to the current Senate majority leader, puts it slightly differently. "There will be two President Doles if Bob is elected. He will be President of the United States, and I'll be president of the Red Cross."

While some see Mrs Dole's approach as refreshing, it has already created its own set of problems and conflicts of interest.

The New Yorker controversy, raising issues that surfaced during Mr Dole's presidential campaign in 1988, centres on David Owen, for 20 years one of the senator's closest aides in Kansas before he was convicted of tax fraud.

He spent much of that time managing Mrs Dole's personal investments, placing them in a blind trust while she served in government. The magazine suggests that Mrs Dole was given special treatment on several occasions.

Mrs Dole has dismissed the allegations and Mr Owen has said she was not actually told of blind-trust investments prior to any transaction.

The Doles have made every attempt to minimise the relationship they once had with Mr Owen, a course strikingly similar to that taken by the Clintons with once-favoured associates in Arkansas.

More than that, the revelations have come at a time when American politics is being governed by semantics. If pundits throughout the country are debating whether 60 hours of work in Arkansas by Hillary Clinton can be described as "minimal",



Elizabeth Dole

should not Elizabeth Dole, a trained lawyer with top-flight degrees from Duke and Harvard who spent time at Oxford, be expected to read her own financial statements?

This may be the first electoral reminder that beneath the charming southern veneer of Elizabeth Dole lies an ambition that has already taken her to the top of the departments of transportation and labour, as well as the American Red Cross. She has harboured ambitions for the presidency as well as the vice-presidency and, since student days, has wanted to be married to the President of the United States.

Until now, the woman described by Lyndon B. Johnson as "a sugar-coated magnolia" has managed to disguise her single-minded intent, but just as conservative America thought it had seen the back of one dabbling First Lady, another is apparently waiting chameleon-like in the wings.

How I wrote the book, got the dog and fixed the film

Little did Valerie Grove know how big an impact writing *Dodie Smith's biography* would have on her own life

"I WRITE THIS sitting in the kitchen sink." Until recently I had never read the famous opening line of *Dodie Smith's I Capture the Castle*, but every woman I met (and several men) had. It had been in print for 45 years, a favourite with young girls and their mothers. Antonia Fraser told me it contained the most erotic scene ever written: Armistead Maupin based a novel on its format; and even the unromantic Alan Brien (the least sentimental man in the world, as his wife Jill Tweedie said) thought it a strangely beguiling work.

Then I was asked to write *Dodie Smith's biography* by the novelist Julian Barnes, her literary executor.

I had imagined the dog-loving Dodie to be a sweet little old lady, the author of 1930s plays like *Dear Octopus*, later an admired autobiographer of her flapper-girl youth on the stage, and as a salesgirl at Heals in the 1920s.

Early in 1991 I happened to be interviewing Gwen Frangon-Davies on her 100th birthday, for *The Times*. After leaving her cottage I was driven back to Audley End station, and we passed a thatched cottage, closed and shuttered. "That was Dodie Smith's house," she had died six months before. "What happened to her last dalmatian?" I asked. I was told that Charley had died of a broken heart.

A few months later Julian Barnes rang. The hall of his house was now cluttered with Dodie's papers, to be shipped to Boston University. Carmen Callil, Julian said, wanted to publish a biography. She told me: "Read *I Capture the Castle*, then you'll do it."

She was right. I was captivated like so many others from page two, where Rose, the more beautiful of the two sisters who live in penury in a Suffolk castle, says she will go on the streets if necessary, to make some money, and Cassandra retorts briskly that she can't very well go on the streets in the depths of Suffolk. It was sharp and witty and full



Dodie Smith and Charley, her last dog: nagged by her lost fame, she wrote *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* in a state of furious resentment

of bizarre characters — and I knew that Dodie herself would be an interesting character.

I did not realise how interesting. After reading all her books and meeting her surviving friends, I got to snow-bound Boston in February 1994. Her diaries, which ran to millions of words, revealed that the lover she had called "Oliver" in her published memoirs was in fact Sir Ambrose Heal, the Terence Conran of his day. He already had a wife and a rather grand mistress, Lady Maufe, but Dodie told him shamelessly she would be content with "crumbs from a rich man's table". The character of "a young girl poised between childhood and adultery" resurfaced again and again in her novels.

There was also the faggotry. Dodie's circle of friends were almost all gay: Isherwood, John van Druten, Noel and Binkie etc. She preferred her menfolk untrammelled by wives and children — she never wanted children herself. Isherwood regarded her as one of the few people he could discuss his work with. When she came home from her long exile in America, she became fascinated by Julian Barnes, who arrived in 1969 at her cottage aged 22, a friend of her husband's half-sister Laurien: hence his literary executorship.

Several reviewers have remarked on what an unsympathetic creature Dodie was — selfish, egotistical, nagged by her lost fame and success when plays like *Dear Octopus* were superseded by angry young playwrights. But for a biographer this was a rich vein. It was in a state of furious resentment that she wrote *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* in 1956. When Disney bought it for his cartoon film, one of the most successful and money-spinning ever, it kept her going financially for years. And Pongo and Cruella de Vil have joined the immortals of children's literature.

There are two cheering postscripts to my story of a storyteller. The first was that the moment I finished the book, I acquired a dalmatian puppy whom we named Beezie (Dodie's married name was Beesley) who happens to be the best-looking, best-natured dog in the world.

The other postscript is cinematic. When the original Disney dalmatians cartoon came out in 1961, Dodie wrote to Walt, peevishly complaining about the smallness of her credit at the end. "If you write me another of your cute little stories," Disney wrote back, "I will see that your credit is plenty large." Dodie at once sent him *I Capture the Castle* — it had been optioned many times since its publication in 1949 — which Disney snapped up for \$50,000 as a vehicle for Hayley Mills. But although screenplays were written,

the film was never made. At last, while I was writing the book, Dodie's estate managed to exchange the rights to *I Capture the Castle* for Disney's right to remake *101 Dalmatians*.

When I heard this, last February, I wrote to the film director Mike Newell, who was in Hollywood because of *Four Weddings and a Funeral's* Oscar nominations. I picked Newell because he had used my drawing-room to shoot a scene of a previous *success* fou of his,

Enchanted April. I thought he dealt beautifully with Elizabeth von Arnim's exquisite novel about four women who leave dreary London for an Italian palazzo, and I thought he might work a similar translation to the screen for Dodie's oddly beguiling little masterpiece.

Last week I heard the thrilling news that Mark Shivas has secured *I Capture the Castle* as a feature film for BBC Films, and Mike Newell is indeed going to direct it. I wonder who will play the 17-year-old Cassandra? A terrific role for some budding mega-

star. (In 1954, when it had a brief run as a play at the Aldwych Theatre, Cassandra was played by Virginia McKenna, who won plaudits even from hard-hearted critics like Ken Tynan.)

We shall see. It is certainly going to be a very good year for Dodie Smith — her centenary year. And she would have loved seeing *I Capture the Castle* on screen at last.

Dear Dodie by Valerie Grove is published this week by Chatto & Windus at £22. There is a Kaleidoscope Special on Dodie Smith on Radio 4, Saturday, 7.30pm.

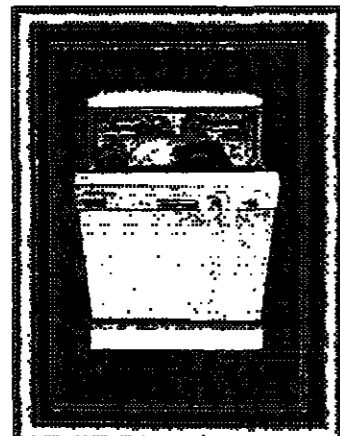
THE MIELE SALE



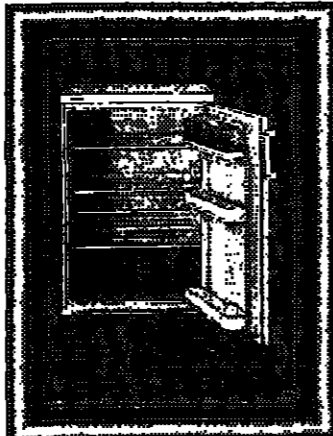
PREMIER W800 WASHING MACHINE
MRP £795 SAVE £45
NOW £750



S1101 VACUUM CLEANER
MRP £159 SAVE £10
NOW £149



G595SC DISHWASHER
MRP £1,200 SAVE £201
NOW £999



K1348S LARDER REFRIGERATOR
MRP £375 SAVE £26
NOW £349

WORKS OF ART THAT ARE NOW PRICELESS

Miele

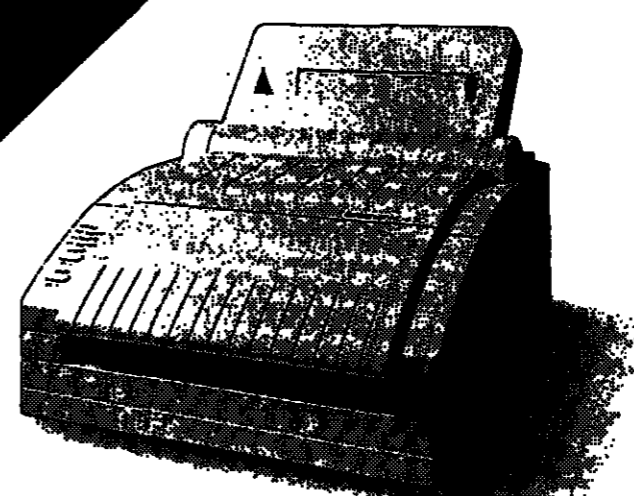
Anything else is a compromise

Sale ends 29th February 1996. For details of sale models and your nearest Miele stockist, please telephone 011 338 554488

INSIDE
SECTION
2

Drinking himself to an Oscar? Nicolas Cage's performance in *Leaving Las Vegas* is reviewed by Geoff Brown Page 37

From
around
£329 + VAT



Brother have the best selling
range of 6ppm
laser printers in the UK.
(Shouldn't that tell you something?)

It should tell you that if you buy a Brother HL-600 series laser printer, you've made the right choice.

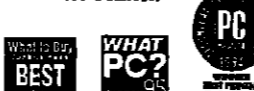
What? You need more convincing?

Well, they offer truly high performance, a superb first page out coupled with six page per minute output. They are fully networkable and happy printing directly from both Windows and DOS environments.

They are jam packed with features too, many more than we have room for here, just look at the panel on the right.

Still not convinced? PC Magazine were, they awarded the HL-630 the coveted title of Best Printer.

Now, doesn't that tell you something?



- 6 pages per minute
- Superfast first page out
- GDI mode for Windows™
- PCL as standard for direct DOS printing
- Network connectivity option
- 300 dpi & 600 dpi printing resolutions
- Straight paper path
- Low cost per copy
- 200 sheet input tray
- Enhanced memory management

Call now on 0345 535 100.

Quoting Ref: TM022

brother

BROTHER U.K. LTD, SHEPLEY STREET, AUDENSHAW, MANCHESTER M14 1JD BROTHER INDUSTRIES LTD, NAGOYA, JAPAN

All trademarks acknowledged. All specifications subject to change without notice

هنا من الفصل

Profits at Stanley Leisure feel heat

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE BOOKMAKER'S nightmare — the favourite romping home every time — hit profits hard at the Stanley Leisure Organisation, the betting and casino group, which yesterday revealed a 25 per cent fall in its half-year profits to £6.1 million.

The company blamed the hot summer for hard racing surfaces, which favoured heavily backed horses and for keeping people away from betting shops. Profits in the racing division halved to £2.8 million on a turnover up 5 per cent to £145 million.

Stanley Leisure added that Sunday opening had not provided sufficient extra betting-shop revenue to justify the extra cost, and it criticised the evening racing programme for being spread over too many days.

Like-for-like turnover declined with the company blaming lottery scratch cards for removing profitable turnover at the lower end of the business.

The casino division, however, bucked the downward trend, increasing profits by 23 per cent to £4.6 million and turnover by 20 per cent to £18.9 million.

Leonard Steinberg, chairman of Stanley Leisure, said: "The first half coincided with the worst six months in racing which I can recall in my many years in the industry. But despite losing all of the Christmas week racing we consider that the worst is now over."

The City was disappointed with the performance and shares fell back 12p to 34p. But the interim dividend was maintained at 2p with the company expressing confidence about the future.

Stanley Leisure said that two new games had been introduced this year, with casino stud poker proving a great success although super pan nine has since been withdrawn.

Mr Steinberg also reiterated the gaming industry's plea for government action to ensure a level playing field in the wake of the introduction of the National Lottery.

Mr Steinberg described recent reforms, including a reduction in the betting levy, as welcome but insufficient.

The dividend will be paid on February 23.



Chipping in: Mike Kershaw, left, chief executive of Stanley Leisure, and Graham Gibson, managing director, at the company's Liverpool casino

Small firms still wary in spite of better links with banks

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE overall relationship between banks and small businesses has improved dramatically since the hostilities at the beginning of the 1990s, but there is some way to go, according to Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

In a speech to be given at the Manchester Merchant and International Bankers' Association last night, Mr Davies said there were "some continuing difficulties, which make

it hard to say with confidence that, as a nation, we are getting the most out of the entrepreneurship evident in our small firms".

The Bank yesterday published its annual report on *Finance for Small Firms*, which showed, said Mr Davies, that in terms of the provision of finance for growth "there is both light and shade, though the picture is brighter than before".

Figures from the British

Bankers' Association showed that £35.91 billion of bank finance was outstanding to small firms in June last year, confirming that banks remain important as the main source of external finance.

The lending figure was 0.8 per cent lower than the previous year, but the Bank report said this "does not necessarily imply a reluctance on behalf of the banks to lend, simply that small firms remain wary of committing themselves to debt

until they are more confident of the recovery".

The report showed that many firms are content to reduce existing overdrafts and only to invest when the majority of costs can be met from internal funds. It also showed that banks had worked hard to encourage the use of fixed-term loans for longer-term purposes.

The Bank found that competition had pushed lending margins down, but that the

average bank lending margin remained at between 3 per cent and 4 per cent over base rate. It also found "significant differences between average margins charged by the main clearing banks, reflecting to some extent different earnings aspirations from this market".

There was a fall in bank charges last year. But the report said that "high charges are still a source of small business complaints".

Mr Davies said small firms are no longer as "excessively reliant on variable rate overdrafts which left them vulnerable to the economic downturn of the early 1990s".

This year, the Bank plans to focus on initiatives to improve financial and management skills, on encouraging increased use of equity finance by growth-oriented small firms and on monitoring the effectiveness of the government support scheme, Business Links, in meeting the requirements of small businesses for information and financial services.

Fairey conducting US expansion

By PHILIP FANGALOS

FAIREY GROUP, the industrial electronics and specialist engineering company, is expanding in America with the acquisition of Particle Measuring Systems Inc for a total of \$75 million.

PMS, based in Boulder, Colorado, makes instruments for microcontamination particle detection, mainly used in the semiconductor industry, but also for kets. PMS, which has 250 employees, expects

its operating profits in 1995 to be at least \$8.5 million, on sales of about \$39 million. It had net assets of \$10.4 million at the end of 1994. About half of PMS's sales are exported, mainly to the Far East and Europe.

The purchase will be financed through the issue of 893,160 ordinary shares and a vendor placing of seven million Fairey shares, underwritten by Cazenove, at 52p a share, as well as from existing borrowing.

Fairey expects the acquisition to be earnings enhancing. Assuming continuing satisfactory trading, Fairey expects to recommend a final dividend of at least 5.45p.

John Poulter, chief executive, expects the group to benefit by building on PMS's strong position in the growing semiconductor market. He added: "PMS is an excellent addition to Fairey's electronics activities."

Fairey shares advanced 20p to 566p.

Time to take fraud seriously

Tony Bingham on the need to go deep into the British psyche to combat a genuine business menace

Fraud is a big problem that threatens every company in the UK and the wider public. The Audit Faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales believes that more concerted action is needed if real progress is to be made controlling this menace.

Last week, the faculty issued a discussion paper, *Taking Fraud Seriously*, and held a conference attended by those in the front line against fraud, including Government, business, regulators, lawyers, accountants and auditors.

The strong message from the conference was that more can and should be done to deter fraudsters and to catch, prosecute and punish them if they offend. While the law and regulations can be improved and strengthened in certain areas, rules and process are not enough. If the problem is to be tackled seriously, there has to be a more robust attitude towards fraud in British business life.

Directors must establish and maintain an anti-fraud culture in their organisations, communicating to management, employees and third parties that dishonesty and

corruption will not be tolerated.

A well-publicised anti-fraud policy should be supported by risk assessment and control measures in the risk areas. The board should provide secure reporting channels for employees and others to voice their concerns about suspected fraud. It should also make clear how cases of suspected fraud are investigated and how perpetrators are dealt with.

One element is essential: every employee has to understand that the anti-fraud culture applies equally at all levels. Directors and senior managers must be, and seem to be, subject to the same code as everyone else.

Taking Fraud Seriously recommends a Code of Business Practice on dealing with fraud, including what should be reported to the authorities, and the audit faculty intends to consult business organisations to take this forward.

The Government also needs to play its part. The Treasury sponsors the Financial Fraud Information Network, but the scope of its information could be widened to include more than just government bodies



Tony Bingham wants to see an anti-fraud culture

and regulators such as the Stock Exchange.

Effective fraud prevention and detection will only start to happen when there is a more co-ordinated approach to sharing information and designing effective measures. *Taking Fraud Seriously* recommends

that the Government should establish an independent standing body — the Fraud Advisory Panel — which would have the task of increasing awareness of the problem and advising on counter measures.

The Law Commission is

reviewing the law relating to dishonesty. There is a strong case for change and consolidation of civil and criminal law on fraud to make it more understandable and effective.

Specific legal changes would make prosecution easier and deter fraudsters. For instance, strengthening the law against knowingly misleading an auditor by extending section 380A of the Companies Act 1985 to cover anyone within the company rather than just a company officer, and increasing the maximum custodial sentence from two to five years.

Clearly auditors have a key role. The training and education of auditors has to be enhanced to ensure that they have the skills to meet their anti-fraud duties. But the auditor's attitude of challenge and scepticism is the key.

The audit faculty is convinced that the robustness of the external audit function must be maintained and enhanced. The conference helped to articulate auditors' determination to joining with others to achieve a step-change in reducing the effects of fraud.

Taking Fraud Seriously is available from the Audit Faculty, ICAEW, PO Box 433, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BU.

Tony Bingham is a partner in Coopers & Lybrand and chairman of the technical and practical auditing committee of the Audit Faculty.

ACCOUNTANCY

Should auditors blow the whistle?

EVEN the Queen knows about the expectation gap that auditors have created. According to Roger Davis, head of audit at Coopers & Lybrand, he found himself at an event organised by a charity for which Coopers did the audit. Introduced to the charity's patron, Her Majesty, he was asked what he did. "I am the auditor," he said. "Ah," said Her Majesty, "you find the frauds."

If you are an auditor, the normal response to this is a frenzied retreat into arcane legal arguments about duties, culminating in a denial that auditors have any responsibility for detecting fraud. Being an urbane soul, Mr Davis did not, apparently, burden Her Majesty with such arguments — he doesn't believe in them anyway — but it is a fine example of just how far from public opinion the auditing profession's view has strayed.

Mr Davis's revelations came at the fraud conference organised last week by the Audit Faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. This followed the publication by the faculty of a series of proposals to limit fraud. It is a difficult topic. Auditors traditionally arrive at such debates with one arm tied behind their backs. They know that measures such as reporting on the effectiveness of internal controls would improve the detection of fraud. But they also know that lawyers stand in their way.

Mr Davis revealed that Coopers' letter of engagement covering the issue of the Cadbury Code alone entailed eight pages of closely typed legal jargon, which its lawyers insisted it has to produce.

He then argued that "auditors must be much more prepared to put their names to assurances of good corporate governance". But he added that this could not currently be so because they were "scared stiff of litigation".

Mr Davis argued passionately, but it is hard to avoid the view that much of this reluctance is as much to do with auditors living in a world of their own as any real aversion to putting their thumb print on a document. Later in the day, Kuldip Singh, QC, warned that "it is very important that any proposal for reform from the profession is not seen as special pleading merely for the benefit of members of the profession".

Adding his voice, Mark Sheldon, former senior partner at Linklaters & Paines and a member of the original Cadbury committee,

argued furiously that corporate governance reform had to be kept up. He also downplayed the threat of lawyers getting too caught up in the arguments over reporting on the effectiveness of internal control.

"Although most solicitors would disagree," he said, "I believe that a carefully worded opinion on effectiveness will be unlikely to add significantly to the liabilities of directors who have taken appropriate steps in this area and may serve to limit any over-optimistic implications as to directors' responsibilities that might otherwise exist." Most finance directors who understand what is at stake would agree with him.

Amidst this morass of squabbling lawyers and accountants, it is hard to remember that what is being argued over is a system which would have probably saved Barings Bank from itself. The fact that some directors dislike the idea of telling shareholders whether international controls are good enough and that some auditors would prefer not to express an opinion should not be allowed to get in the way. It was precisely such flabby dithering which allowed Barings to get itself into its disastrous position in the first place.

On another measure, there is much more agreement. This is the idea that Section 389A of the Companies Act 1985 should be strengthened. This is the measure which allows "officers of the company" to be prosecuted should they be found to have deceived the auditor.

Reform of this section is not a new idea. It was mooted immediately after the Polly Peck revelations. But it is ever more urgent.

Fraud trials are impossibly difficult. It is notoriously difficult to get a satisfactory result. None of us is likely to be as sure of what is right and what is wrong after months of lawyers demonstrating tangled webs of inter-connecting companies. Journalists have trouble in such circumstances in sticking to the first principle of "follow the money". Juries can be baffled.

Strengthening Section 389A solves all that. Proving that someone has deceived the auditor involves little more than two sheets of paper and a half-hour explanation. At present, no one bothers to prosecute because the maximum sentence of two years is not thought to be tough enough. Simple, says the audit faculty, increase it to five years and get on with some speedy prosecutions.



ROBERT BRUCE

Where watching figures is out

THE English ICA has a revolutionary in its basement. Deep beneath its Moorgate Place headquarters is a restaurant named after Pru Leith. Speaking at a recent event organised by recruitment consultants Robert Half, she revealed her views on business plans. And they were not the things that Moorgate Place would recognise. Her best advice came from fellow culinary luminary, Albert Roux. "He said: 'Look, it's perfectly

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

simple, forget about the budgets, targets, plans and all that garbage accountants tell you." The results of this advice can be tested by accountants beneath their own headquarters. Expect "humble pie" to appear on the menu very shortly.

Foresight

AT LAST week's English ICA fraud conference, Mark Sheldon of Linklaters & Paines quoted a remark about

corporate governance that Lord Young of Graham had made at a conference. "We have to take this seriously," said Sheldon, "because Lord Young is a president man. We know this because at the same conference he also said, 'If I do not succeed with my colleagues, the institutions will not waste much time in sending the men in grey suits to tell me I should spend more time with my family.'"

A jubilant Sheldon concluded:

"One month later, they did."

Brand of gold

BRAND names seem to have lost their value. Once, firms such as Coopers & Lybrand were gung-ho about the pot of gold that brand names could represent. But this week they let one of their own go for free, and ahead of time — the name Deloitte. As from last Monday, Touche Ross has become

Deloitte & Touche. "No money crossed the table," said a spokesman.

Junk TV

THE BBC children's programme, *Blue Peter*, aims to raise more than £500,000 for its "Paperchain" appeal by collecting 5,000 tonnes of high-grade household junk mail and other waste paper. Why am I telling you this? Simple. The charity accounting experts at Moores Rowland are monitoring the volume of waste collected. Presumably, no one has raided the partners' out-trays.

مكتبة القرآن

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

3

[illegible]

BRIEFING						BRIEFING					
1996			1995			1994			1993		
High	Low	Stock	Price	Yr	Int'l %	Grnd %	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yr
SHORTS (under 5 years)											
100%	100%	Trac 15-16/1996	100%	-	14.06	5.25	100%	110%	Trac 1	100%	Trac 1
100%	100%	Trac 17-18/1996	100%	-	12.56	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 2	100%	Trac 2
100%	100%	Trac 19-20/1996	100%	-	8.70	6.00	100%	110%	Trac 3	100%	Trac 3
100%	100%	Trac 21-22/1996	100%	-	8.70	6.00	100%	110%	Trac 4	100%	Trac 4
100%	100%	Trac 23-24/1996	100%	-	12.25	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 5	100%	Trac 5
100%	100%	Trac 25-26/1996	100%	-	10.04	6.00	100%	110%	Trac 6	100%	Trac 6
100%	100%	Trac 27-28/1996	100%	-	8.74	5.14	100%	110%	Trac 7	100%	Trac 7
100%	100%	Trac 29-30/1996	100%	-	11.04	5.14	100%	110%	Trac 8	100%	Trac 8
100%	100%	Trac 31-32/1996	100%	-	9.16	5.22	100%	110%	Trac 9	100%	Trac 9
100%	100%	Trac 33-34/1996	100%	-	2.11	5.27	100%	110%	Trac 10	100%	Trac 10
100%	100%	Trac 35-36/1996	100%	-	6.14	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 11	100%	Trac 11
111%	111%	Trac 37-38/1996	111%	-	12.04	6.00	100%	110%	Trac 12	100%	Trac 12
124%	124%	Trac 39-40/1996	124%	-	12.04	6.41	100%	110%	Trac 13	100%	Trac 13
100%	100%	Trac 41-42/1996	100%	-	10.51	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 14	100%	Trac 14
100%	100%	Trac 43-44/1996	100%	-	8.70	6.41	100%	110%	Trac 15	100%	Trac 15
100%	100%	Trac 45-46/1996	100%	-	11.04	6.41	100%	110%	Trac 16	100%	Trac 16
111%	111%	Trac 47-48/1996	111%	-	9.40	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 17	100%	Trac 17
100%	100%	Trac 49-50/1996	100%	-	11.04	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 18	100%	Trac 18
112%	112%	Trac 51-52/1996	112%	-	8.15	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 19	100%	Trac 19
LONGS (over 15 years)											
100%	100%	Trac 1	100%	-	8.74	5.14	100%	110%	Trac 1	100%	Trac 1
100%	100%	Trac 2	100%	-	9.16	5.22	100%	110%	Trac 2	100%	Trac 2
100%	100%	Trac 3	100%	-	2.11	5.27	100%	110%	Trac 3	100%	Trac 3
100%	100%	Trac 4	100%	-	6.14	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 4	100%	Trac 4
100%	100%	Trac 5	100%	-	12.04	6.00	100%	110%	Trac 5	100%	Trac 5
100%	100%	Trac 6	100%	-	12.04	6.41	100%	110%	Trac 6	100%	Trac 6
100%	100%	Trac 7	100%	-	10.51	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 7	100%	Trac 7
100%	100%	Trac 8	100%	-	8.70	6.41	100%	110%	Trac 8	100%	Trac 8
100%	100%	Trac 9	100%	-	11.04	6.41	100%	110%	Trac 9	100%	Trac 9
100%	100%	Trac 10	100%	-	9.40	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 10	100%	Trac 10
100%	100%	Trac 11	100%	-	11.04	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 11	100%	Trac 11
100%	100%	Trac 12	100%	-	8.15	5.51	100%	110%	Trac 12	100%	Trac 12

[illegible][illegible]

Stansted's main terminal has been open for five years, writes **Harvey Elliott**. But the airport has yet to attract the transatlantic airlines

The fastest-growing airport in Britain

When the planners and the pundits of the early 1980s were asked to imagine how Stansted airport would have developed by 1996, they were of one accord.

It would be a sleek, easy and efficient airport handling mainly long-haul international flights. These would be matched by dozens of short haul international charter flights as package tour operators switched from Gatwick to the Essex base, where parking was easier and cheaper.

BAA, its owner and operator, listened and designed a new terminal to match. Outbound and inbound passengers were separated so that techniques for dealing with large numbers of international flights could be installed.

No one gave much thought to domestic passengers. Yet today, five years after the opening of the bright and airy terminal, designed by Sir Norman Foster, it is the domestic network which is making Stansted the fastest-growing airport in Britain.

In 1995, Stansted handled 3.89 million passengers, an increase of 19.4 per cent on the previous year. For the 12 months to the end of January, there will have been well over 4 million passengers, including 750,000 using British or Irish flights, double the number for last year.

The growth has been so great that BAA is appealing to Parliament to allow the airport to grow so that it can handle 15 million a year, almost double its existing permitted limit of 8 million.

Terry Morgan, Stansted's managing director, says: "The big demand has been for domestic passengers, who are now having to use terminals which were not designed for them. If we can get the increase in overall capacity, we would have the confidence to spend up to £100 million in building a domestic terminal."

This is music to the ears of both Air UK and Ryanair, airlines which have made Stansted their home airport. Air UK, for example, serves 20 destinations from Stansted, including 14 key European cities and each of the major cities in the UK's own domestic network. Its routes to and from Stansted were the fastest-



□ Families can enjoy a free fun day at Stansted airport this Sunday and next (January 21, 28), 10am to 4pm. Parking is free in the long-stay car park for three hours. There will be music, children's activities, prizes and a free holiday draw.

growing, rising to 1.4 million passengers in 1995 — 24 per cent up on the previous year. Ryanair carried 988,000 passengers through Stansted in 1995 on its 11-strong fleet of Boeing 737s. It is now drawing up plans to operate from Stansted to the bigger cities on the Continent and to increase its UK domestic routes.

Privately, Stansted officials admit that they have been disappointed that the big long-haul airlines have not been able to make a financial success of the airport. Several have tried. Mr Morgan says: "Realistically, we have to accept that United, American and most of the other big transatlantic carriers have their eyes on Heathrow. Our priority now must be to attract a big European carrier and to develop the routes from Stansted. Then, when a large carrier decides to come in, it will find a network of connecting flights ready and waiting." El Al operates to New York from Tel Aviv via Stansted and apparently finds the market both vibrant and profitable. Others, it is hoped, will follow, especially new carriers from Eastern Europe.

The real breakthrough is,

however, still around the corner, although some believe it could come if Heathrow's proposed terminal five is rejected by the Government. This could be crucial to the future shape of Stansted. In its first

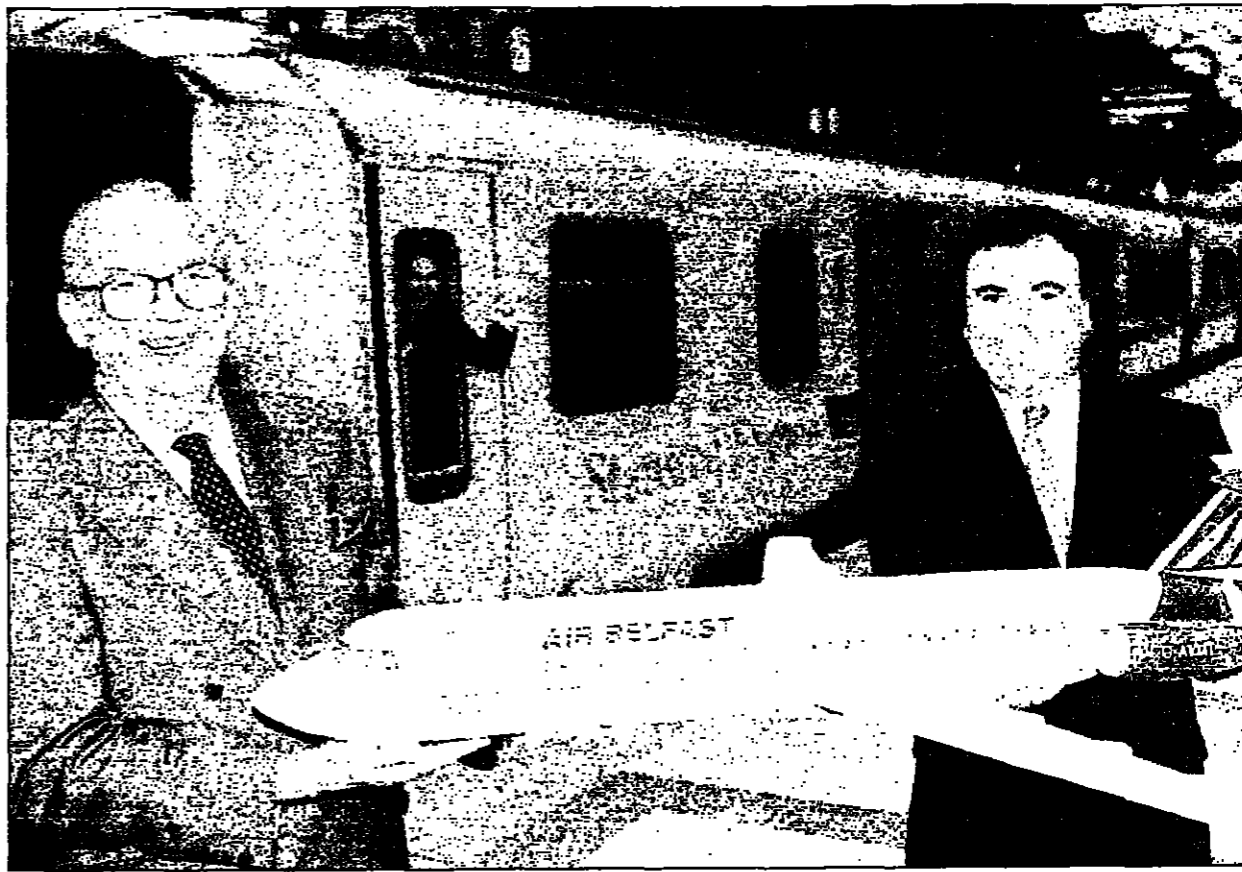
full year of operation, 1991, Stansted lost £30 million. In the current financial year it is likely to lose £10 million. Officials believe that the airport will be making a profit within 18 months.

The charges for airlines to land and park led rival airports to challenge Stansted's policies in the courts, claiming that it was being unfairly subsidised by its parent group.

"We have to try to balance between the need to attract airlines to Stansted and the need to charge fees which will bring us to profit as soon as possible," Mr Morgan says. "Even if we were not part of the BAA group, we would still do the same as we are today."

That Stansted is now growing faster than any other major commercial airport in Britain cannot be in doubt. It is particularly attractive to charter airlines passengers and its fast train link to Liverpool Street station makes it a natural centre for domestic services.

What Stansted needs is a giant airline to move in and turn it into a great international airport. A scheduled European "flag-carrier" would be a start. To judge by the pace of development in the airport, that could happen at any time.



Terry Morgan, right, MD of Stansted, and Brian Beal, of Air Belfast, celebrate the improved domestic air links

At last, a cure for terminal stress.

London Stansted has been carefully designed to be the most stress-free airport ever built.

Our award winning Terminal (there is just the one you'll be relieved to hear) is congestion free and a pleasure to use. It's an easy 150 metre stroll from the entrance to the airside lounge. And it's all on one level.

London Stansted is also easy to get to. The railway station is built directly under the Terminal. Express trains run every 30 minutes to and from Liverpool St Station, in the Heart of the City, with a journey time of around 40 minutes. The airport road system links directly with the motorway network. It's right by the M11 (Junction 8) and the M25 is less than twenty minutes away.



Services are increasing all the time and destinations currently include: Aberdeen, Amsterdam, Asturias, Belfast City, Belfast International, Brussels, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Cork, Dijon, Dublin, Dusseldorf, Edinburgh, Florence, Frankfurt, Glasgow, Guernsey (summer only), Hamburg, Havana, Helsinki, Innsbruck, Jersey, Knock, La Coruña, Lille, Londonderry, Luxembourg, Maastricht, Madrid, Manchester, Milan, Munich, Newcastle, New York, Nice, Paris, Prague (from March 31), Prestwick, St. Petersburg, Tel Aviv, Waterford, Zaragoza, Zurich.

If you'd like to find out more about how we can help take the strain out of business travel call freephone 0800 118 118.

London
Stansted

For flight guides and further information ☎ 0800 118 118

*** Air Swift**
Medevac
Specialists in
Worldwide Air Charter / Air Ambulance
Tel +44 (0) 1279 680811
Fax +44 (0) 1279 680096

**LUXEMBOURG
DIRECT**

LUXEMBOURG IS JUST OVER THE HORIZON. FROM STANSTED, HEATHROW OR MANCHESTER, LUXAIR'S DAILY FLIGHTS TAKE YOU DIRECT TO ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST BUSTLING BANKING AND COMMERCIAL CENTRES. COMFORTABLY AND COMPETITIVELY.



For information and bookings contact your local travel agent or call Luxair at 0181/745 42 54.

The American dream comes true

El Al, the Israeli carrier, has just confirmed that it will continue with its transatlantic service this summer from Stansted to Newark airport, New York. The route was launched last October and early indications are that it will be a success.

The decision is a great boost for Stansted because the New Jersey airport provides its only transatlantic link, something the airport has needed to maintain its credibility as London's third airport.

Hopes were initially high in the early 1990s that Stansted would relieve pressure on Heathrow and Gatwick take-off and landing "slots" by offering a number of transatlantic services. But American Airlines, which started a Stansted to Chicago service in 1992, was forced to pull out a year later after demand from business travellers proved disappointing. Since then, expect-

El Al has made the vital US link, David Churchill says

tations have been raised that another leading carrier, such as Delta or TWA, would move to Stansted and provide a New York service. But these hopes have been dashed by the stagnating UK-US bilateral talks regulating flights between the two countries. American carriers are reluctant to use Stansted when the possibility of gaining far more lucrative Heathrow slots remains open.

Another American carrier, Tower Air, had been keen to divert its India-Amsterdam-New York route via Stansted, thus creating a new service. But because this would require Tower Air to gain British

permission for flying the India leg of the journey, Tower Air is understood to have decided against applying for the route this year.

Terry Morgan, Stansted airport's managing director, believes that it is better to have a firm agreement with American carriers before starting a new service. He says: "We don't want the legacy of the American Airlines experience, where carriers come in and pull out again. That is too unstable a situation."

The El Al service, however, is not covered by the US bilateral talks, so it is a bonus for Stansted. The three-weekly service, using Boeing 757s and sometimes Boeing 747s, is also one of the cheapest ways of getting to New York. The present economy return fare is £167, plus £26 tax, although the business-class fares are comparable with those charged by other airlines. The service also has another



A Cuban jet at Stansted ready for the weekly run to Cuba. This is the only scheduled airline service to the communist country from Britain

angle for Stansted in that it additionally provides a route, albeit roundabout, to Tel Aviv as the plane continues its journey from New York to the Israeli capital.

Attracting a big transatlantic carrier is difficult, so Mr Morgan is concentrating on gaining more European routes for Stansted. Starting in April, for example, is a new

four-times-a-week service to Prague operated by Czech Airlines, which already has flights from Heathrow and Gatwick — "another example of how European airlines are recognising the value of a Stansted service as well," says Mr Morgan.

Stansted operates scheduled services to 41 destinations, and carriers ranging from Aeroflot

(twice-weekly to St Petersburg in Russia) to the Romanian airline Tarom (to Bucharest once a week). In all, 14 airlines run scheduled services from Stansted, including the franchise service British Airways Express, flying to Manchester and Waterford in Ireland.

Most intriguing is probably the weekly service to Cuba — the only scheduled service

from Britain to the communist state — operated by Cubana. Other scheduled carriers include Air Excel, Avio, Finnair, Luxair and Proteus. More than 600,000 passengers — about 15 per cent of the total — flew last year on domestic scheduled services, more than half on business trips. But only just over a quarter of those on inter-

national flights are flying on business; the rest are travelling on leisure. Stansted's charter operations — in the minority for most of the year, but which come into their own during the summer months — also offer a wide range of holiday destinations, mainly to Europe's sun spots. There are hopes for more flights to America.

LONDON - BELFAST & JERSEY • BIRMINGHAM - BELFAST

Only Jersey European's Business Class can offer you the ticket to freedom



Qualifying journeys must be completed by 29th February 1996. Vouchers can be redeemed for travel up to 30th June 1996. Complimentary tickets cannot be used between 2nd April 1996 and 10th April 1996 inclusive. Voucher redemptions are valid to 0001h. Offer excludes government surcharges. Seats are subject to capacity control. Travelling on complimentary tickets does not qualify for Executive Club to be awarded. Bookings for complimentary tickets must be made through Jersey European's ticket desks or by calling Jersey European Airways. Reservations on 01392 360 777 or 01232 457 200. If booking by telephone we will need to receive the validated form prior to ticket issue. Complimentary tickets are not upgradeable.

THE FREEDOM TICKET

Do you want to be pampered on board our superb 146 Business Class service from London Gatwick or London Stansted to Belfast? Or from London Gatwick to Jersey? Or from Birmingham to Belfast? If so, and you complete your journey by 29th February 1996, you'll go even further than you bargained for. Because Jersey European Airways' Business Class offers you the ticket to freedom.

FREE ECONOMY RETURN

All you have to do is buy and use a Business Class return ticket on any of the routes mentioned above and you can claim a free Economy return ticket to be used anywhere on the Jersey European network.

FREE BUSINESS RETURN

If you buy and use two Business Class return tickets you get a Business Class return with our compliments.

FREE TO CHOOSE WHO CAN USE IT

Complimentary tickets must be claimed by the Business Class traveller. However, because the Freedom Ticket is just what its name implies, you can nominate anyone to use it.

FREE TO CHOOSE WHERE TO USE IT

Business Class is only available on our 146 Whisper Jet services. However, complimentary tickets can be used on all our flights, giving you the freedom to travel to 12 different places within the UK and a choice of over 100 flights a day.

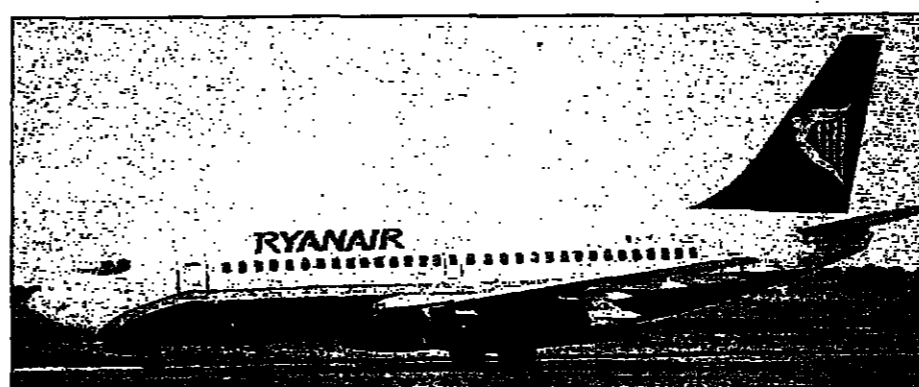
FREE FROM HASSLE

If you're travelling from London's Gatwick or Stansted from central London you need never get caught in traffic again. The Gatwick Express and Stansted SkyTrain will speed you to the airports in record time, avoiding delays and all the hassle. And if you're flying to Belfast, Belfast City Airport is only 2 miles from the centre of the city.

FREE TO STRETCH YOUR LEGS

On our 146 Whisper Jets, you can relax in the luxury of our dedicated Business Class cabin. Our extra large seats really give you freedom to stretch your legs while you enjoy our attentive cabin service and perhaps sample some of the finest French wines for which we are renowned.

CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION ON 01392 360 777 OR 01232 457 200 OR CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT.



Ryanair now carries more than a million passengers a year between Dublin and Stansted

Ulster peace brings a tourist dividend

The Northern Ireland ceasefire, which has had the impact of creating an additional peace dividend for Stansted airport, instead of handling small numbers of passengers travelling between Stansted and Belfast, is now carrying more than 250,000 a year.

The improved flow along this air corridor to Northern Ireland has been one of the most significant developments at both airports during the past 12 months.

A year ago there was just one daily turboprop aircraft leaving at lunchtime for Belfast; now there are eight jet aircraft making the trip every day, operated by Air Belfast and Jersey European. Tourist arrivals from Ulster have increased by 40 per cent over the past year.

The Essex airport is also now one of the key gateways for the Republic of Ireland, serviced by Ryanair, the second-biggest operator from Stansted. The airline carries more than a million passengers a year between Dublin and Stansted. In October the airline introduced a

service between Stansted and Glasgow's Prestwick airport. Ryanair's success at Stansted has been based on a low-cost strategy, emulating the success of no-frills carriers in some part of the US. More than three-quarters of its traffic to and from Dublin is at fares of up to £99; the highest fare is £99. This contrasts with full fares on other carriers of up to £249.

Tim Jeans, Ryanair's UK chief executive, says: "Our top

fare of £99 return attracted enormous interest from business travellers tired of paying £100 more than we charged for the privilege of a hot breakfast."

Ryanair has carried more than 30,000 passengers between Glasgow and London since the new route started; 560 seats a day are available at a fare of £29 one-way. An extra selling point has been the offer of free rail travel until March 31 for passengers to anywhere in Scotland as part of their journey.

Air UK, the largest airline using Stansted, flies to 20 destinations in both the UK and Europe and accounts for some 40 per cent of all passengers using the airport. Air UK introduced services to Zurich and Madrid, helping to increase passenger numbers by 24 per cent. Extra flights are planned to popular destinations. Air UK is also now the largest foreign airline using Stansted's Schiphol airport, the home of KLM, which owns 45 per cent of the airline.

Tony Le Masurier, the sales and marketing director for Air UK, believes that it can compete with British Airways and British Midland. He says: "Our growth shows that the British public is increasingly following the American lead and treating short-haul domestic and European flights almost routinely."

Mr Le Masurier also confirms that Air UK has no plans to change its one-class service. "We have found no pressing demand for a business class cabin", he says. The Sterling Service provides hot or cold meals depending on the flight time, and complimentary drinks and newspapers. But 26,000 frequent fliers with Air UK qualify for an Executive Card, which gives access to lounges, a telephone check-in service and a pre-flight choice of seat. Card-holders are also given membership of KLM's Flying Dutchman frequent-flier programme.

DAVID CHURCHILL

Ideas handled with care

Tony Dawe

reports on the airport's future

Improving links with the local community has become a top priority for managers at Stansted as they plan to expand the airport. A glossy four-page information bulletin, *Stansted Forum*, is delivered regularly to surrounding households and businesses. An opinion poll was commissioned from MORI, and fines imposed on airlines for breaching noise limits are given to local causes.

The survey found that aircraft noise is of the greatest concern and likely to remain so as the airport seeks permission to raise its limit of 78,000 aircraft movements a year. Terry Morgan, Stansted's managing director, insists the increase is essential if the airport is to reach its initial target of handling eight million passengers a year by 2000 and 15 million by 2007.

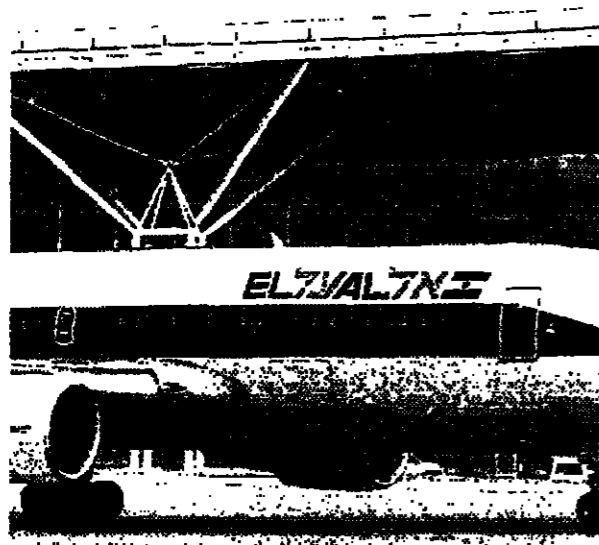
Mr Morgan takes heart from the survey's findings that most residents view Stansted positively for its advantages to the local economy. But he says he and his staff are working to see whether noisier planes can be phased out. "We are not seeking approval for extra flights just for the sake of it," says Tony Astor, Stansted's cargo manager. "It will help us to achieve our aim of establishing Stansted as an international airport in its own right, with scheduled services as the backbone of the business — vital if air links for London as a whole are to be maintained."

Stansted attracts increasing numbers of passengers from North London. And the improved M25 river crossing at Dartford now woos them in north Kent. Better links between the M11, A1 and M1 also make the airport more accessible.

Local environment groups are concerned at its continued expansion. They have seen Stansted develop as London's third airport, although it was not considered an option by the commission, headed by Lord Roskill, which investigated the best site for an additional airport to Heathrow and Gatwick in the early 1970s. Its role was finally confirmed by a public inquiry in 1985. Their worst fear is that Stansted will get a second runway, which would blight parts of Essex. Mr Astor insists their fears are groundless.

"The existing runway," he says, "will handle at least 35 million passengers a year and we are talking of expanding to 15 million at the moment."

The airport management is also keen to reassure residents about pollutants, including hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, emitted by vehicles, power plants and jets. Officials monitored air quality at 40 sites on and around the airport and found that the highest pollution levels were caused by road — not air — traffic.



EL AL'S NEW YORK JETS ARE APPEARING AT STANSTED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

EL AL. THE ONLY AIRLINE TO FLY TO NEW YORK FROM YOUR LOCAL AIRPORT.

Now you can fly scheduled from Stansted to the heart of the Big Apple every Sunday, Thursday and Friday (returning Saturday, Sunday and Thursday) El Al Israel Airlines is the only International carrier to offer this service.

It's so convenient — like having New York on your doorstep. Direct from your local airport to Newark.

within easy reach of Manhattan. And business or pleasure, you've got it all. Catch a Broadway show. See the Jets in action. Or just pop across the Pond for a shop-till-you-drop weekend. Award-winning Stansted is spacious, easily accessible and relaxed, offering a wide range of duty free shopping, eating places and bars. Plus on-the-spot, reasonably priced parking.

EL AL also fly from Stansted to



Tel Aviv four times a week. For further information contact your local travel agent, or call EL AL direct on

0345 125725

STANSTED TO NEW YORK. THREE TIMES WEEKLY.

EL AL. MORE THAN JUST ISRAEL.

RYANAIR

THE LOW FARES AIRLINE
From London Stansted

40 flights daily from Stansted to Dublin, Glasgow (Prestwick), Cork & Knock.
RESERVATIONS: 0171 435 7101

50 من الأصل

From ra
The world's largest specialist cargo airline!
Superstar
045 125 847
£167
YOU CAN NOW SEE Y FROM STANSTEI

From racehorses to Rolls-Royces and pearls

Tony Dawe
behind the
scenes of the
cargo carriers

Cloth from Turkey, flowers from Colombia, grapes from South Africa and racehorses returning from Jordan are just some of the goods which arrive regularly at Stansted airport and have helped to turn it into Britain's third-busiest cargo airport.

They are carried aboard 200 weekly flights operated by a variety of aircraft, from old four-engine turbo-prop Lockheed Electras to McDonnell Douglas's latest twin-engine long-haul MD 11s. A regular sight at Stansted are the giant Russian Antonov 124 freighters, which can carry 150-tonne loads and are the only aircraft big enough to transport the engines for the new Boeing 777s.

Operated by HeavyLift Cargo Airlines, the Antonovs might arrive with vast pieces of engineering equipment but they often leave with gentler loads intended to alleviate suffering in countries ravaged by war or disaster.

In the run-up to Christmas, they were working for a charity which collected gifts and practical items in shoeboxes to be taken, 100,000 of them at a time, to Bosnia and Rwanda.

The staple fare of Stansted's world cargo centre, however, is mail and express parcels. Every night, more than a dozen flights, operated by airlines like Channel Express, head for Belfast, Edinburgh, Newcastle and other airports north and west with the mail.

They are followed by services to major European cities operated by TNT Express Worldwide, which uses Stansted as a collecting point for its European fast parcels service, and by flights to France, Germany and the United States, operated by Federal Express.

"The expansion of the FedEx operation and the arrival of TNT from Luton are largely responsible for the astonishing growth in our cargo traffic over the last couple of years," says Tony Astor, Stansted's cargo manager.



Lift-off: an engine for a Boeing 777 is loaded aboard a 124 Antonov freighter

Among new cargo services starting soon are a weekly Royal Jordanian Airlines flight to Amman and a twice-weekly service to Tel Aviv operating with a British Airways flight number.

Unlike Heathrow, which handles the largest amount of air cargo in Britain with most of it travelling in the holds of passenger aircraft, almost all Stansted's cargo travels in freighters. The cargo centre can accommodate up to six jumbo freighters at any one time and provides 15,000 square metres of warehouses to store the goods.

Both TNT and Federal Express have their own transit sheds while two more are run by Servisair and GHI, the Stansted offshoot of Gatwick Handling, which between them look after dozens of airlines.

Stansted is also linked to Cargo Community System UK, the computer-based Customs clearance and documentation system which serves all three London airports and is used by hundreds of forwarding agents throughout the country.

The system enables agents to track cargo consignments through every stage of their journey, from point of origin to final destination, with Customs procedures and documentation handled automatically.

The facilities and space at Stansted encourage outside shippers to use it. Last week, a consignment of classic cars, including Rolls-Royces and Ferraris, was awaiting collection in the Servisair shed, having arrived by sea at

Felixstowe from the United States. "They gave us something new to admire," said Fred Cracknell, Servisair's cargo co-ordinator. "But there was no way we could have stored them before Christmas: the shed was full of hundreds of tonnes of grapes, other foods, clothes and flowers heading for the shops."

High street shopping
at your local airport

Passengers waiting in the departure lounge at Stansted can while away the time with their own mini-lottery at the Pearl House kiosk. For £9.99 they can buy an oyster which is guaranteed to contain a pearl. David Churchill writes. It could be worth £10 or maybe £78, depending on the size of the pearl. The pearls can be immediately mounted on a brooch or a necklace. This is a novel addition to the growing range of retail shops, coffee shops and restaurants available to travellers on both sides of passport control.

Clive Cranwell, retail operations manager, says: "We are well on our way to establishing a top retail centre here." His enthusiasm is not surprising since the airport receives just under half its total revenue from retailing outlets. Those using Stansted spend more per head than at Heathrow, Gatwick or any other airport operated by BAA.

Local people and airport staff can also make use of seven shops in the check-in area. A store is also being



Buying magazines and books — an important part of Stansted's check-in area

added which will enable arrivals passengers to stock up on groceries before returning home.

The restaurant in the departure lounge is being redeveloped and there are ideas for a pub and an additional coffee shop there.

The biggest change has been a £250,000 revamp of the duty

free shop. Malt whisky, gin and vodka sell at up to 50 per cent off manufacturer's recommended prices, with perfumes up to 30 per cent cheaper. The Historical Research Centre provides waiting passengers with the chance to buy a computer-generated coat of arms which can be framed on the spot.

All Stansted's retail outlets are covered by the BAA guarantee, which promises a full refund from anywhere in the world if a passenger is not satisfied with any product bought from an airport shop. Children are not forgotten. Entertainment centres, called Funbase, offer electronic and video games.

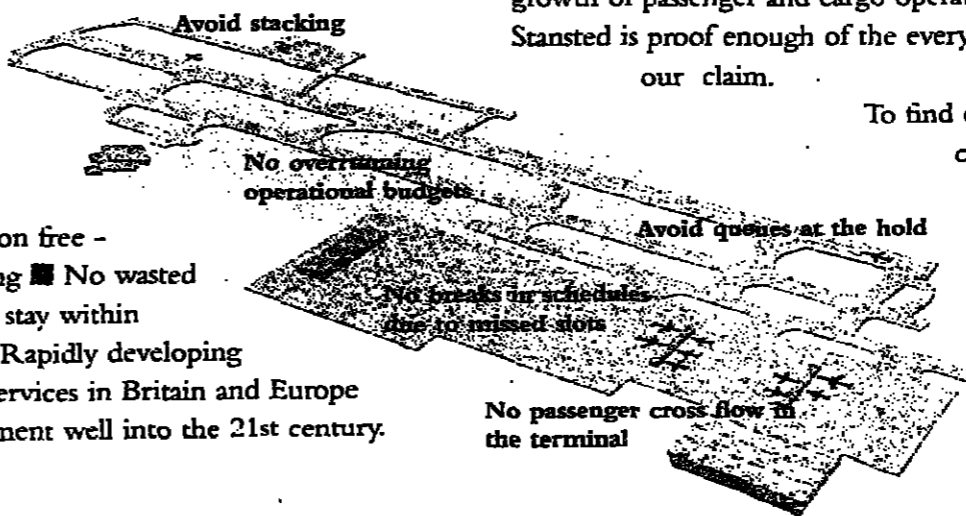
Everything an airline would expect from a London airport.

Except congestion.

- Direct access by express train to and from the heart of the City
- Direct access to the UK motorway network
- Slots to land or takeoff to suit your schedule
- Congestion free - no stacking, no holding
- No wasted time, no wasted fuel - stay within operational budget
- Rapidly developing network of interline services in Britain and Europe
- Room for development well into the 21st century.

All this might sound too good to be true but the rapid growth of passenger and cargo operations from London Stansted is proof enough of the everyday reality of our claim.

To find out more about our congestion free facilities for airlines, aircraft, passengers and cargo fax the Marketing Department on 01279 662932.



London Stansted

Stansted Airport Limited, Enterprise House, Stansted Airport, Essex CM24 1QW

YOU CAN NOW SEE NY FROM STANSTED

FROM **£167** RETURN (plus £26 tax)

Superstar has moved the Big Apple closer to your doorstep. Now you can fly scheduled non-stop to New York from Stansted. Flights leave on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, arriving at Newark within easy reach of Manhattan. Competitive fares and 20% off for kids.



0345 125 847

Superstar Holidays

ASTA 55234

ATOL 2982

The world's largest specialist cargo airline!



HeavyLift-VolgaDnepr puts together in one airline the quality and experience of the long-established leader in outsized air cargo movements and the formidable capacity of the Antonov AN124 Ruslan. With a combined specialist freighter fleet including Belstas, Hercules and Boeing 707, IL76 and Antonov AN12 aircraft, the HeavyLift-VolgaDnepr name and number is the one to recall - over and over again!

For further information about the specialist airline call the Commercial Department.

HeavyLift-VolgaDnepr Limited
London-Stansted Airport, Tel: 44 (0)1279 580611
North America, Tel: (800) 231 6339 or (616) 753 3337
Far East, Tel: Singapore 433 0661
Ulyanovsk, Tel: 7 (8422) 201457

HeavyLift-VolgaDnepr
The specialist cargo airline

... Stansted to Dublin...
... Cork & Knock...
... 0171 435 7101

Law Report January 18 1996 Court of Appeal

Automatic directions timetable prevails over that in form

Williams v Globe Coaches and Another
Darby v Ginsters Cornish Pasties Ltd

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton
(Judgment December 18)

The timetable for the operation of the automatic directions prescribed by Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687 (L20)), as substituted by rule 14 of the County Court (Amendment No 3) Rules (SI 1994 No 104) (L17), prevailed over any different timetable indicated on Form N450 by the county court when acting in its administrative capacity and sending that form to the parties.

Where, however, a plaintiff had been misled by reliance on the timetable indicated on the form within the consequence had not requested a hearing date within the period specified by the rules as he would otherwise have done so that his action had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9), the court would ordinarily accede to his application for reinstatement without requiring him to satisfy the exacting conditions specified in the relevant provisions where a plaintiff, having failed to comply with a date prescribed by the rules, was in mercy.

The Court of Appeal so held:

(i) allowing an appeal by the plaintiff.

Susan Williams, from Judge Michael Burr, at Cardiff County Court, who had held that her action claiming damages for personal injuries against Globe Coaches and Peter Evans had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) on June 5, 1994 and should not be reinstated; and

(ii) allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Julia Darby, from Judge Wignmore, at Plymouth County Court, who had affirmed an order of the district judge declaring that her action claiming damages for personal injuries against Ginsters Cornish Pasties Ltd had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) on September 6, 1994 and that her request made by letter of September 22, 1994, for a hearing date was out of time and had dismissed her application for an extension of time for setting down the action.

First action: Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Ian Bullock for the plaintiff; Mr James Bell for the defendant.

Second action: Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Adam Chippindall for the plaintiff; Mr John Joyce, QC and Mr Richard Stead for the defendant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that under Order 17, rule 11(9) the automatic directions timetable ran from the date on which pleadings were deemed to be closed. That date, defined in rule 11(1)(i), was 14 days after delivery of a defence in

accordance with Order 9, rule 2, or, where a counterclaim was served with the defence, 28 days after delivery of the defence.

That date, the trigger date, was of fundamental importance since it triggered the operation of the timetable. If no request was made to the proper officer to fix a hearing day within 15 months of the trigger date, the action was to be automatically struck out under rule 11(9). The 15-month date, the guillotine date, was the absolute cut-off point after which the action was to be struck out by the court, was the date on which the guillotine fell.

His Lordship referred to County Court Form N450 (see *The County Court Practice* 1995 p2014) entitled "Notice that automatic directions apply" which was sent by the county court to the parties after delivery of the defence and gave guidance on the steps to be complied with under the automatic directions.

In particular, the form provided for the completion of a date and stated that the automatic directions timetable began 14 days after the date so inserted or 28 days thereafter if a counterclaim was filed with the defence.

The form had been approved by the Lord Chancellor or his department, but was not prescribed since no county court rule required such a notice to be served nor specified its contents.

Its object was, however, reasonably to alert recipients to the timetable, to remind them of the effect of Order 17, rule 11, to encourage compliance with the automatic directions regime and to alert them to the sanction if no hearing date was requested within the time limit.

The form was sent routinely from county courts to litigants without any judicial intervention or decision. In such cases the sending of the form did not involve any exercise of the court's jurisdiction by a judge or a district judge. It was merely an administrative act. In each case there was a clear finding by the judge that the form had been despatched in that way.

Accordingly there could not be said to be any giving of directions by the court under Order 17, rule 11(2)(b) or any other directions or orders under rule 11(1).

His Lordship referred to the first case, in which proceedings had been issued in Reading County Court in January 1993. After delivery of the defence the county court on February 19, 1993, issued Form N450, inserting that date and giving the impression that the trigger date was 14 days thereafter, and June 5, 1994 the guillotine date.

After the proceedings were transferred to Cardiff County Court that court on October 6 issued a further Form N450 specifying that date. Under that form, the trigger date would have been 14 days thereafter and the guillotine date

15 months later. On September 22, 1994, after the guillotine date calculated by reference to the first Form N450 but before that calculated by reference to the second form, the defendants took the point that the action had been automatically struck out.

On the plaintiff's application for a declaration that the action had not been struck out, alternatively for its reinstatement, the judge accepted the evidence of the legal executive who handled the matter that she had not on the timetable to be derived from the second form and had accordingly been misled. The questions therefore were:

(1) When, under the rules, was the action automatically struck out?

(2) If it had been struck out before the second guillotine date, on what terms if any should it be reinstated?

The answer his Lordship would give to question (1) was that where the sending out of the form involved no exercise of judicial discretion at all it could not be said to be a "direction" under the rule. Order 17, rule 11, as was clear, set out a timetable with a draconian sanction if the requirement was not complied with.

The mere sending out by the court of a form not itself prescribed and without any judicial intention to vary the timetable could not have that effect. The date on which automatic strike out

occurred was clearly specified in rule 11(9) and in the present circumstances Form N450 could not alter it.

In answering question (2) his Lordship emphasised that the present situation was entirely different from that which the court had attempted to regulate in *Rastin v British Steel plc* (1994) 1 WLR 732.

There the plaintiff, or his advisers, had failed to comply with the date prescribed by the rules and was therefore at mercy. The court had thought it right to impose a rest of reinstatement which would in large measure give effect to the intention underlying the rules.

Here the situation was different: a plaintiff had been misled by a document received from the county court, into believing that the timetable ran from a later date than it in fact did, and as a result had failed to request a hearing date which he would otherwise have done.

That was not a situation which the court had had in mind in *Rastin*, and of altogether different and different considerations of fairness had to be taken into account.

It would be unfair if a plaintiff who had fallen foul of the rules as a result of relying on an apparently clear and unequivocal document sent by the county court itself was to be obliged to satisfy the exacting conditions of reinstatement specified in *Rastin*.

Accordingly in the ordinary way and in the absence of special circumstances the court should be willing to reinstate the action, although it was to be emphasised that it was an essential condition of reinstatement that the plaintiff had actually been misled.

Turning to the second case: proceedings had been issued on April 6, 1993 and a defence delivered on or about May 24. Accordingly the trigger date was June 7, 1993 and the guillotine date September 7, 1994.

The date specified on Form N450 was June 9, 1993 from which June 23 would be derived as the trigger date, and be derived as the guillotine date September 23, 1994 as the guillotine date. Between the two guillotine dates application had been made to extend time.

It accordingly followed from the decision in the first case that the timetable prescribed by the rules had remained in effect but that in all the circumstances it would be appropriate to reinstate the action.

The appeals would therefore be allowed and the actions reinstated. Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton agreed.

Solicitors: Lyons Davidson, Bristol; Cole & Cole, Reading; Blight, Broad & Skinnard, Saltsay; Curwights, Bristol.

County court actions struck out by passage of time under new rule

Gardner v Southwark London Borough Council
King v East Cambridgeshire District Council and Another
Thompson v Wickes Building Group Ltd

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton

(Judgment December 18)

Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981, as substituted, providing for the automatic striking out of an action for failure to request a hearing date within the period specified by the rules was not analogous to a peremptory order of the court nor was a plaintiff who had failed to comply with the automatic directions so as to suffer automatic strike out to be treated as though he were guilty of contumacious disobedience to a court order.

Where, therefore, a plaintiff's action was automatically struck out by operation of that rule, his commencement of a fresh action claiming the same relief against the same defendants within the limitation period did not amount to an abuse of the court's process.

The Court of Appeal so held:

(i) allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Patricia King, from Judge Cox, at Lambeth County Court who had struck out his action against the defendants, Southwark London Borough Council and Walter Lawrence Management Ltd, for damages for negligence and/or breach of contract, on the basis that his failure to request a hearing date within the period specified by the rules was an abuse of the court's process;

(ii) granting leave to appeal and allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Pamela Thompson, executrix of the estate of the late Alan Thompson, from Mr Assistant Recorder Eversall, QC, at Southampton County Court who had struck out his action against the defendants, Wickes Building Group Ltd, as an abuse of the court's process;

(iii) granting leave to appeal and allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Robert v British Telecommunications plc, from Mr Assistant Recorder Eversall, QC, at Southampton County Court who had struck out an action commenced within the limitation period for damages for personal injuries against the defendants, Wickes Building Group Ltd, as an abuse of the court's process.

In each case, following the automatic strike out of the plaintiff's action under Order 17, rule 11(9), a second action, claiming the same relief against the same defendants had been commenced within the limitation period.

First action: Mr Walter Ayles, QC, and Mr Alan Smith for the plaintiff; Mr Victor Levene for the defendant.

Second action: Mr Guy Mansfield, QC, and Mr David Westcott for the plaintiff; Mr Andrew Miller for the defendant.

Third action: Mr Guy Mansfield, QC, and Mr David Westcott for the plaintiff; Mr Dermot O'Brien, QC, and Mr Martin Porter for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE referred, in the first case, to Mr Ayles's submission that the analogy drawn between failure to comply with the automatic directions and disobedience to a peremptory order of the court was false: the two were not comparable and that, although the court always retained a discretion to restrain a second action on the ground of abuse, that was a sanction reserved for exceptional cases.

By contrast Mr Levene had argued that the automatic directions machinery introduced by Order 17, rule 11 was a novelty in English jurisprudence and had been heralded as a measure intended with a view to stopping the scandal of delay that therefore it should be given at every opportunity the teeth it was intended to have.

He had urged that to allow opportunities for bringing the second action would be seriously to undermine the severity of what was intended to be a stern measure.

His Lordship preferred Mr Ayles's submission. No contumacious conduct and no contempt or defiance of the court's orders was involved in the process of suffering an automatic strike out of proceedings. The circumstances might show dilatoriness or lack of excuse such as to disqualify a plaintiff from having the action reinstated on the principles approved in *Rastin v British Steel plc* (1994) 1 WLR 732.

But that was a long way from saying that such a shortcoming

amounted to disobedience or defiance such as occurred in failure to comply with an unlesser order.

In the former case the mere march of time past the milestones set in the automatic directions programme had deprived the plaintiff of his action.

In the latter case the court made an order specifically addressed to the plaintiff, demanding performance of a step which, if disobeyed, would result in a contempt of court and became the subject of the punitive sanction of dismissal of the suit.

The discretion to strike out for abuse was never excluded, and, as Mr Ayles had submitted, was retained to deal with exceptional circumstances.

Having reached that conclusion the same result followed in the second and third cases.

Lord Justice Otton agreed.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, agreeing, said that if a plaintiff whose first action had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9), was subject to a costs order and brought a second action within the limitation period, it was open to the defendant to seek an order restraining the second action until the costs of the first action had been met.

That was not a ground on which the plaintiff could be precluded from bringing the second action, but it might afford grounds for restraining the second action until he had paid his debts.

Solicitors: Gordon Doucets & Walton, Walsworth; Woolley Morris & Kennedy, Sidcup and Greenwoods.

Russell Jones & Walker, Pretty, Ipswich.

Department & Bassitt, Southampton; C. A. Norris, Ringwood.

Meaning of 'deliver'

Lightfoot v National Westminster Bank plc

Robert v British Telecommunications plc

Robert v Hollins

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton

(Judgment December 18)

The word "deliver" bore the same meaning in Order 9, rule 2(1) and Order 17, rule 11(1) of the County Court Rules 1981, and signified the lodging by the defendant of his defence to the plaintiff.

It was to be contrasted with the use of the word "send" in Order 9, rule 2(1), relating to the obligation of the proper officer of the court to send on a copy of the defence to the plaintiff.

Accordingly, the commencement of the automatic directions timetable was to be calculated by reference to the date of the delivery of the defence to the court, not by reference to a two-stage process, perfected when the proper officer of the court fulfilled his obligation.

The Court of Appeal so held:

(i) granting leave to appeal and allowing the appeal by the defendant, National Westminster Bank plc, from Judge Simpson, at the Mayor's and City of London County Court, who had held that the action by the plaintiff, Pauline Lightfoot, had not been struck out;

(ii) allowing an appeal by the defendant, British Telecommunications plc, from Judge Simpson, at the Mayor's and City of London County Court, who had held that the action by the plaintiff, Robert v Hollins, had not been struck out;

(iii) allowing an appeal by the defendant, British Telecommunications plc, from Judge Simpson, at the Mayor's and City of London County Court, who had held that the action by the plaintiff, Robert v Hollins, had not been struck out.

Where a county court plaintiff, before the expiry of the 15-month guillotine period, applied to the court for an extension of time, it was to be inferred that his application implied, as an alternative, a request for a hearing date, so as to avoid the sanction of automatic strike out under Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Reginald Carr, from Judge Crawford, QC, at Newcastle upon Tyne County Court, who had affirmed the decision of the deputy district judge that the plaintiff's action claiming damages for personal injuries against the defendant, Northern Clubs Federation Brewery Ltd, had been automatically struck out and should not be reinstated.

The plaintiff had begun proceedings in January 1993, the defence being delivered on Feb-

ruary 16, the trigger date was accordingly March 3, and the guillotine date, June 3, 1994, when the action had been automatically struck out.

Mr D. J. B. Trotter for the plaintiff; Mr Timothy Briden for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the plaintiff's advisers had been not unreasonably of the pendency of the guillotine date. In an endeavour to avoid its consequences they had issued an application for an extension of time two days before the guillotine date.

On the hearing, which took place after the guillotine date, the parties had agreed to treat the application as one for reinstatement. That application had been dismissed on the principles enunciated in *Rastin v British Steel plc* (1994) 1 WLR 732.

However since then the Court of Appeal in *Ferreira v American Embassy Employees Association* (The Times June 30, 1995) had held that an application for an extension of time to avoid automatic strike out was to be treated as necessarily implying an alternative application for the fixing of a hearing date.

From that authority, which was binding on the present court, it was clear that the plaintiff's appeal had to succeed.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Otton agreed.

Solicitors: Marrons, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mr B. K. J. Lewis, Manchester.

Oversight is no excuse

Hackwell v Blue Arrow plc (trading as Extra Staff) and Another

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton

(Judgment December 20)

Total oversight by a plaintiff's advisers to appreciate the effect of Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981 afforded the plaintiff no excuse on an application for reinstatement following the automatic strike out of his action.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Stephen Hackwell, from Judge Walker, at Bow County Court, who, setting aside the district judge's order, allowed an appeal of the second defendant, Carlton Interiors Ltd, declaring that the plaintiff's claim had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) and refusing to reinstate the action.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the first defendant, Blue Arrow plc (trading as Extra Staff), from Judge Walker, at Bow County Court, who, setting aside the district judge's order, allowed an appeal of the second defendant, Carlton Interiors Ltd, declaring that the plaintiff's claim had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) and refusing to reinstate the action.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, agreeing, said that from the evidence it appeared that it was the practice of some county courts not to send a copy of the defence to the plaintiff where the defendant delivered the defence to the court stating that he had sent a copy to the plaintiff.

While that might be a sensible, convenient and economical practice it was plainly contrary to Order 9, rule 2(1) which imposed on the proper officer a clear mandatory duty, which he was not at liberty to neglect, to send a copy to the plaintiff.

While the rule stood in its present form it was clear that county courts should, on receipt of the defence, send a copy to the plaintiff.

It was difficult to envisage a situation where a plaintiff could show that he had been genuinely prejudiced by the county court's failure to perform its duty under Order 9, rule 2(1).

However, if he were able to show that such failure had caused him real prejudice by his action being struck out in circumstances where it would not otherwise have been, the court's powers were sufficiently ample to enable any genuine injustice to be remedied.

Solicitors: Cole & Cole, Reading; Partridge & Partners, Manchester; Mr Alan Whitfield; Partridge & Partners, Chatham.

Liddell Zarbrugg, Manchester; Betesh Partnership, Manchester.

Hearing date request implied

Carr v Northern Clubs Federation Brewery Ltd

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton

(Judgment December 20)

Where a county court plaintiff, before the expiry of the 15-month guillotine period, applied to the court for an extension of time, it was to be inferred that his application implied, as an alternative, a request for a hearing date, so as to avoid the sanction of automatic strike out under Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Reginald Carr, from Judge Crawford, QC, at Newcastle upon Tyne County Court, who had affirmed the decision of the deputy district judge that the plaintiff's action claiming damages for personal injuries against the defendant, Northern Clubs Federation Brewery Ltd, had been automatically struck out and should not be reinstated.

The plaintiff had begun proceedings in January 1993, the defence being delivered on Feb-

ruary 16, the trigger date was accordingly March 3, and the guillotine date, June 3, 1994, when the action had been automatically struck out.

Mr D. J. B. Trotter for the plaintiff; Mr Timothy Briden for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the plaintiff's advisers had been not unreasonably of the pendency of the guillotine date. In an endeavour to avoid its consequences they had issued an application for an extension of time two days before the guillotine date.

On the hearing, which took place after the guillotine date, the parties had agreed to treat the application as one for reinstatement. That application had been dismissed on the principles enunciated in *Rastin v British Steel plc* (1994) 1 WLR 732.

However since then the Court of Appeal in *Ferreira v American Embassy Employees Association* (The Times June 30, 1995) had held that an application for an extension of time to avoid automatic strike out was to be treated as necessarily implying an alternative application for the fixing of a hearing date.

From that authority, which was binding on the present court, it was clear that the plaintiff's appeal had to succeed.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Otton agreed.

Solicitors: Marrons, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mr B. K. J. Lewis, Manchester.

Oversight is no excuse

Hackwell v Blue Arrow plc (trading as Extra Staff) and Another

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton

(Judgment December 20)

Total oversight by a plaintiff's advisers to appreciate the effect of Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981 afforded the plaintiff no excuse on an application for reinstatement following the automatic strike out of his action.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Stephen Hackwell, from Judge Walker, at Bow County Court, who, setting aside the district judge's order, allowed an appeal of the second defendant, Carlton Interiors Ltd, declaring that the plaintiff's claim had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) and refusing to reinstate the action.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the first defendant, Blue Arrow plc (trading as Extra Staff), from Judge Walker, at Bow County Court, who, setting aside the district judge's order, allowed an appeal of the second defendant, Carlton Interiors Ltd, declaring that the plaintiff's claim had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) and refusing to reinstate the action.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, agreeing, said that from the evidence it appeared that it was the practice of some county courts not to send a copy of the defence to the plaintiff where the defendant delivered the defence to the court stating that he had sent a copy to the plaintiff.

While that might be a sensible, convenient and economical practice it was plainly contrary to Order 9, rule 2(1) which imposed on the proper officer a clear mandatory duty, which he was not at liberty to neglect, to send a copy to the plaintiff.

While the rule stood in its present form it was clear that county courts should, on receipt of the defence, send a copy to the plaintiff.

It was difficult to envisage a situation where a plaintiff could show that he had been genuinely prejudiced by the county court's failure to perform its duty under Order 9, rule 2(1).

However, if he were able to show that such failure had caused him real prejudice by his action being struck out in circumstances where it would not otherwise have been, the court's powers were sufficiently ample to enable any genuine injustice to be remedied.

Solicitors: Cole & Cole, Reading; Partridge & Partners, Manchester; Mr Alan Whitfield; Partridge & Partners, Chatham.

Liddell Zarbrugg, Manchester; Betesh Partnership, Manchester.

Hearing date request implied

Carr v Northern Clubs Federation Brewery Ltd

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton

(Judgment December 20)

Where a county court plaintiff, before the expiry of the 15-month guillotine period, applied to the court for an extension of time, it was to be inferred that his application implied, as an alternative, a request for a hearing date, so as to avoid the sanction of automatic strike out under Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Reginald Carr, from Judge Crawford, QC, at Newcastle upon Tyne County Court, who had affirmed the decision of the deputy district judge that the plaintiff's action claiming damages for personal injuries against the defendant, Northern Clubs Federation Brewery Ltd, had been automatically struck out and should not be reinstated.

The plaintiff had begun proceedings in January 1993, the defence being delivered on Feb-

ruary 16, the trigger date was accordingly March 3, and the guillotine date, June 3, 1994, when the action had been automatically struck out.

Mr D. J. B. Trotter for the plaintiff; Mr Timothy Briden for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the plaintiff's advisers had been not unreasonably of the pendency of the guillotine date. In an endeavour to avoid its consequences they had issued an application for an extension of time two days before the guillotine date.

On the hearing, which took place after the guillotine date, the parties had agreed to treat the application as one for reinstatement. That application had been dismissed on the principles enunciated in *Rastin v British Steel plc* (1994) 1 WLR 732.

However since then the Court of Appeal in *Ferreira v American Embassy Employees Association* (The Times June 30, 1995) had held that an application for an extension of time to avoid automatic strike out was to be treated as necessarily implying an alternative application for the fixing of a hearing date.

From that authority, which was binding on the present court, it was clear that the plaintiff's appeal had to succeed.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Otton agreed.

Solicitors: Marrons, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mr B. K. J. Lewis, Manchester.

Oversight is no excuse

Hackwell v Blue Arrow plc (trading as Extra Staff) and Another

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton

(Judgment December 20)

Total oversight by a plaintiff's advisers to appreciate the effect of Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981 afforded the plaintiff no excuse on an application for reinstatement following the automatic strike out of his action.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Stephen Hackwell, from Judge Walker, at Bow County Court, who, setting aside the district judge's order, allowed an appeal of the second defendant, Carlton Interiors Ltd, declaring that the plaintiff's claim had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) and refusing to reinstate the action.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the first defendant, Blue Arrow plc (trading as Extra Staff), from Judge Walker, at Bow County Court, who, setting aside the district judge's order, allowed an appeal of the second defendant, Carlton Interiors Ltd, declaring that the plaintiff's claim had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) and refusing to reinstate the action.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, agreeing, said that from the evidence it appeared that it was the practice of some county courts not to send a copy of the defence

at in form

r new rule



FILM 1
Nicolas Cage drinks himself to oblivion (and an Oscar?) in *Leaving Las Vegas*



FILM 2
... while Michelle Pfeiffer works miracles on inner-city kids in the rose-tinted *Dangerous Minds*

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
Steven Soderbergh twists the film noir genre into a skein of puzzles in *The Underneath*



FILM 4
... and there are plenty of thrills, of a less subtle kind, in *Mute Witness*, set in Moscow

Geoff Brown drinks deep of Mike Figgis's study of alcoholic despair, and goes back to school with Michelle Pfeiffer

Bottled up, bottle open, bottling out

First introduced wobbling down a Los Angeles supermarket aisle and filling his trolley with booze, Nicolas Cage begins *Leaving Las Vegas* the way he means to go on. He is stewed. His walk, talk and gestures tell us this; so does the way he later manhandles his car. Already short of ready cash, he loses his scriptwriting job, ransacks his bank account, burns possessions and heads for the Nevada pleasure domes. "I came here," he says, "to drink myself to death." And he succeeds, bottle pressed to his lips, stripped down to the stubble and sinews that filmgoers know only too well.

The single-mindedness of Cage's character is matched by the director's. After wobbling a bit himself with *Mr Jones* and a redundant remake of *The Browning Version*, Mike Figgis re-establishes his Hollywood credentials as the English director who does things differently. No frills; no happy ending; just lashings of sleazy atmosphere, moody music and a small story pursued to the bitter end. The reverse of "feelgood" cinema.

Only two characters matter: Cage's Ben Sanderson and Elisabeth Shue's prostitute Sera, another vulnerable soul who offers support and love. Figgis's set-up is so spare that it denies both of them any previous history. We never know why their demons have taken up residence; they just have.

Two consequences flow from this. Since no easy explanations are peddled, we are encouraged not to judge their actions. Sera herself never says "Tut tut" nor hides bottles; she accepts that Ben has chosen perdition. This is unusual in a Hollywood movie about a social problem; and it allows Figgis to peer closely, movingly at times, into the alcoholic state.

The streamlined script — from a novel by John O'Brien, who followed his own self-destructive path and died one month before shooting started — also increases the performers' burden. As in previous roles Cage throws himself headlong into the physical requirements of acting drunk. The eyes pop out from sockets; the hand shakes. Speech comes in torn fragments. The relaxed air he maintains in comedies pokes through, too, warming the portrayal. Shue works her own corner well, creating in Sera a mixture of Good Samaritan and a trapped, yearning lover.

Figgis views the Vegas landscape with curious eyes. Where *Showgirls* opted for neon pomp, Figgis plunges us into this seedy world with slow dissolves and fade-ins. However, the film ultimately suffers from claustrophobia. Its

Leaving Las Vegas
Warner West End, 18, 110 mins
Nicolas Cage gets spectacularly drunk
Dangerous Minds
Odeon West End, 15, 99 mins
Michelle Pfeiffer brings magic to the inner cities
The Underneath
MGM Shaftesbury Ave, 15, 99 mins
Fascinating puzzle from Steven Soderbergh
Mute Witness
Warner West End, 18, 96 mins
Ebullient thriller set in Moscow
Persuasion
Barbican, U, 107 mins
Balm from Jane Austen

small focus and Ben's downward spiral leaves audiences with little to look forward to except more of the same, and you long occasionally for someone to call out "Time, gentlemen, please!" But since Figgis is offering something not usually on sale — a pessimistic Hollywood mood piece closer to art than entertainment — only the most short-sighted should pass the film by.

Anyone fainting for lack of a plot in *Leaving Las Vegas*

should rush to *Dangerous Minds*. Audiences across America certainly have; this timid tale about Michelle Pfeiffer working her magic on inner-city kids has taken four times as much money as *The Usual Suspects*, released at the same time. It is a plot many people already know, especially if their memories stretch to *Blackboard Jungle* or *To Sir, With Love*.

A new teacher, a former Marine, plunges into an unruly class. "Rejects from hell," she calls them. After falling with traditional tactics and tweeds, she wears jeans, offers bribes, and analyses the lyrics of *Mr Tambourine Man*. The class contains the expected types: hardened hood veterans, the bright kid who jeopardises her chances by getting pregnant. The film's point, however, is that every kid has a chance, provided his or her attention is caught and energy channelled away from violence.

The message is well-meant, and the story, implausibilities acknowledged, happens to be based on truth: LouAnne Johnson, Pfeiffer's character, is also the author of the source material, a memoir called *My Posse Don't Do Homework*. To audiences eager for good news about themselves, the film could obviously be comforting. Others will find it rose-tinted and predictable.

The glamorous Pfeiffer convinces neither as a former Marine nor an inner-city teacher, though she gets ten out of ten for trying. There are



Make his a treble: Nicolas Cage stars in *Leaving Las Vegas*, Mike Figgis's claustrophobic study of two lost souls in the Nevada desert town

fewer marks for John N. Smith, an experienced director from Canadian television, making his American debut. He was hired on the basis of *The Boys of St Vincent*, widely praised for its penetrating treatment of abusive behaviour at a Catholic orphanage. Once he reaches Hollywood, fog descends.

The eagle-eyed will observe that Steven Soderbergh's *The Underneath* is a Populist Pictures production. Soderbergh is scarcely a populist, and wide acceptance of his new feature will probably be hindered by the layers of flashbacks, fancy camera angles and other displays of rampant style. The movie, a remake of the late 1940s film noir *Cris Cross*, still grips, though more as puzzle than thriller.

We begin with the unfolding robbery of an armoured car carrying bank notes galore. Flashbacks emerge to fill in the story: their colouring and film grain is different, and in the strand placed furthest in time, Peter Gallagher usefully wears a beard. He plays a wastrel who returns home to the nowhere of Austin, Texas, and tries to pick up the torch with his former wife, currently attached to a reptilian nightclub owner.

By fracturing the plot so much, Soderbergh ensures the robbery never builds into the expected set piece. Nor do the scenes between Gallagher and his old flame (Alison Elliott) reach the heat that rose between surly Burt Lancaster and sultry Yvonne De Carlo in the original. Soderbergh's interest lies instead in the confusions, the moral or immoral choices, opened up by the story's twists.

Camera pyrotechnics, razor-sharp dialogue and accomplished playing make the film's puzzle endlessly fascinating. Nobody is better than Gallagher at polishing a wastrel with charm, which is just

what his ambiguous hero requires. Smaller parts, too, are etched with flair. Soderbergh may still not have topped his debut, *sex, lies and videotape*, but *The Underneath* proves again that he is incapable of making a boring film. Just do not expect to be perched on the seat's edge, knuckles whitening.

Mute Witness, by contrast, straps you on an emotional rollercoaster. You shake with fear as the heroine, a mute special-effects girl on a Moscow movie set, faces some new torment after witnessing the shooting of a snuff film. The

next moment you laugh at buffoonish comedy; then you guffaw at clunky dialogue, a thrill that misfires, or the sudden emergence of a "mystery guest star". The next scene you quake again, heart in mouth.

The man responsible for this crazy, good-bad movie is Anthony Waller, a British commercial director who was trained at the Munich Film School (some of his German classmates are behind the camera with him). His script was first set in Chicago; then economy dictated his scumbag characters do their business in

Russia. It was a smart move: even though ex-communist crime lords have fast become movie clichés, enough novelty persists in the film studio setting to ward off yawns. After spending the first half cowering, Russian actress Marina Sudina shows refreshing pluck; and playing mute, she is spared the worst of Waller's dialogue. Good fun, though debilitating: at the end you do not walk from the cinema, you stagger.

Persuasion, BBC Films' adaptation of Jane Austen's last novel, receives a brief, welcome cinema airing after two

television transmissions last year. You can snort perhaps at the hand-held camera waltzes favoured at times by director Roger Michell. You may wish Austen's story of love lost and recaptured was not pushed through at quite such a lick. But you cannot fault the film's fresh spirit, sensitivity, nor its wonderful cast. Amanda Root as Anne Elliot, the daughter facing a life on the shelf, is its heart and soul. Hers is a face that the camera loves, for it picks up every rustle of hope or disappointment and basks in her smile. This is the most civilised film in town.



What time is now? Alison Elliott in *The Underneath*, whose maze of flashbacks is "endlessly fascinating"

Good news for night owls

THIS week the House of Commons has debated the BBC World Service funding cuts and the Lords, as is their curious wont, used a debate on the new Broadcasting Bill to mutter about the amount of sport going to satellite television channels, which is not actually covered by the Bill.

But outside the corridors of notional power there is real news for real listeners. After several years of hints, rumours, hopes and false dawns, I can confirm that Radio 3 is to become a 24-hour network from April 1 this year. This has been a cherished ambition of Nicholas Kenyon.

RADIO: Peter Barnard looks forward to all-night programming for 'real listeners' on Radio 3

Radio 3's Controller, since he took over from John Drummond in 1992, Kenyon received provisional approval from John Birt, the Director-General, last November and yesterday Kenyon's team met at Broadcasting House to finalise details.

The confirmation of a round-the-clock Radio 3 is good news for those night owls among us who until now have had only Classic FM (no mean compensation, I may say) as a buttress against the nocturnal forces of rock 'n' roll. The wee hours have too long been an oasis of Oasis.

Classic FM has proven that there is a night-time audience for serious music and I argued long ago that Radio 3 should have turned into a 24-hour network before Classic was on

the air. At the time, accountants ruled Broadcasting House and anyone arguing for more programming could expect to be certified.

Times change. I understand that Kenyon has secured an extra £500,000 a year to finance night-time broadcasting, the money coming from economies elsewhere in the BBC. This is small beer in Radio 3's annual budget of £56 million but extra money for any network is an achievement in this era.

The night service will be run by Donald McLeod, now head of presentation. That in turn means that Radio 3 listeners who have been complaining about the network's presentational style can expect to have their needs attended to by McLeod's successor, who has

yet to be named. Start writing now, is my advice.

The schedules for Radio 3 during the night are not finalised but they are unlikely to offer wall-to-wall music, unfortunately. Schools broadcasting is likely to take up the hours between 3am and 5am but at least the hours either side will now service a real, if small, market.

Increased airtime will be good news for the five BBC orchestras, which will be asked to contribute more live and recorded music. A few years ago several of the orchestras' faced closure or merger but savings elsewhere enabled that threat to recede. Now it has the chance to become a distant memory.

All of which is in stark contrast to stories circulating predicting the demise of Radio 3, apparently based on an "internal document" discussing the network's long-term viability. Clearly Radio 3 is fighting back... and about time, too.

Malcolm Jones Gallery and Berkeley Studio
EXHIBITION OF 100 "SNAPLES"
Prints and Originals
7 Park Street, St James's S.W.1
(Tel: 0171 235 8833 Fax: 2085)
18th January to 26th January

FOUR **GOLDEN GLOBE** NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE • BEST ACTOR • BEST ACTRESS • BEST DIRECTOR

"ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL AMERICAN FILMS OF THE YEAR" THE GUARDIAN

"A neon-soaked masterpiece" TIME OUT

"COMPELLING" "EXCEPTIONALLY MOVING" EMPIRE

"An award-winning MASTERPIECE" INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

NICOLAS CAGE ELISABETH SHUE

LEAVING LAS VEGAS
A MIKE FIGGIS FILM

FROM TOMORROW
AT SELECTED CINEMAS NATIONWIDE



YOUNG ARTS
The courageous percussionist Evelyn Glennie dispels the myths about the deaf



THEATRE
Meinwärts is a gripping lament for victims in two different generations

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 1
A new staging for Ayckbourn's trilogy, *The Norman Conquests*
VENUE: This week at the Salisbury Playhouse



CHOICE 2
Final week for *South Pacific* and Patti Boulaye's *Bloody Mary*
VENUE: Until Saturday at the Drill Hall, WCI

Hilary Finch on how rhythm and melody can help young deaf children to speak

Feeling for the sound of music

In a tiny mews, a filling as it were between two sandwich bars in a side street midway between Euston and King's Cross stations, pump and circumstance are in the air. *Land of Hope and Glory* blasts out from the loudspeakers at a three-year-old called Abi proudly beats her drum to the march. She starts as Elgar's great crescendo rears up, and she stops when the music ceases. She can hear only the deeper tones, and when congratulated on sharing her drum, she tunes in to the vowels of human speech.

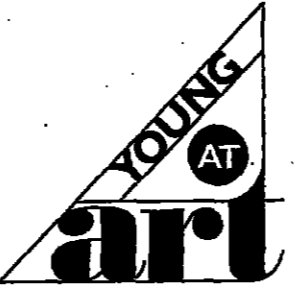
Before the deaf virtuoso percussionist Evelyn Glennie, the idea that music was not only a viable but a vital ingredient in the education of hearing-impaired children was considered at best as eccentric, at worst as totally incongruous. But Beethoven himself may have endorsed a positive view if there had been ears to hear him. For the range of vibrations and frequencies which can be experienced by the use of carefully selected instruments is now acknowledged in the development of the rhythm and melody of speech and language.

Christopher Place, Britain's first speech, language and hearing centre for babies and children under five, was opened in December by Evelyn Glennie. Its miniature furniture and gently curved, pastel-tinted walls are as bright and new as the research which motivated its existence. The years between birth and five have for long been a silent void for hearing-impaired children and their parents, as far as mutual support and therapeutic activity have been concerned. And as such awareness has increased so, paradoxically, have resources decreased. This was the force behind Christopher Place: this, and the heightened awareness that background noise, television and the speed at which children are now required to communicate, are



Beethoven would approve: music therapy is now an important part of education for hearing-impaired children

possible contributory factors in the ever-growing number of speech and language-delayed children. The chairman Andrew Jaye, who has a hearing-impaired child of his own, visited a similar centre in America and determined that a centre offering a full nursery curriculum, together with inter-disciplinary therapeutic intervention, should be provided in Britain. Christopher Place became a registered charity in 1991, formed a board of trustees, and started four years of fundraising. The breakthrough came when an anonymous foundation offered to set up custom-built accommodation. Three small, light floors open into flower-filled, sound-proofed rooms, each one with semi-circular tables for child, teacher and parent.



With the help of the head teacher, an educational psychologist, a teacher of the deaf, an occupational therapist and a dance and music therapist, a boy of 18 months, assessed a year ago as hearing impaired and with a total inability to communicate, found himself with a vocabulary of more than 60 words after visiting the centre three times a week for 12 weeks. The director

Angela Harding points out that testing has also revealed that several children with speech and language delay have made six to eight-week advances in just a fortnight. She attributes this to the use of appropriate language levels and integrated with music and dance, and to a programme of close follow-up work and linking with parents and local authorities. Referral to Christopher Place - sometimes from as far away as Manchester or Wales - is through paediatricians, GPs, health visitors and, above all, the parental bush telegraph. Funding can be private, from local authorities, or from the centre's own Child Sponsorship Fund: it is Christopher Place's "fervent hope" that no child who requires therapy will be refused

because of finance. The Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children (founded in 1976 by Ann Rachlin) hopes to contribute to this, and has already donated a spacious room for dance and music therapy, as well as a set of customised musical instruments to help hearing-impaired children to reproduce the rhythm and melody of speech and language, and to start a life of communication.

ALTHOUGH some contemporary mime is text-based, even in such cases the overriding concern is to create scenes the eye can register. Thus Raimund Hoghe, in this 90-minute piece from Germany, sometimes stands at a lectern and reads sombre accounts of deaths and persecution, while the voice of Joseph Schmidt, a popular tenor from the 1930s, is heard warbling his songs at regular intervals. But it is the odd yet simple movements, the silent, uncanny images, that give the work its haunting power.

Meinwärts is a requiem, initially for the doomed Schmidt, whose songs, to quote the words of the most famous of them, went round the world but whose

Requiem for a tenor

Jewish blood drove him from Nazi Germany. The requiem broadens its scope to recall the transport east of an ordinary Jewish family during the war, the interruption of neo-Nazi brutality closer to our own day and finally the death of a friend, possibly a lover, from an AIDS-related illness. Coupling this with the Jewish persecution may seem improper to some, but Hoghe provides an unexpected link between the two in his



own person: a growth restriction prevented Schmidt performing in opera, and in the first moments of this show Hoghe, also a short man, casually reveals the distortion of his right shoulder.

On a dark stage, lit only by a cluster of red night-lights at one corner, Hoghe is seen in silhouette, sitting with his back towards us. A flying trapeze is faintly visible. An assistant walks on and douses the lights, and Hoghe can

be dimly seen walking to the trapeze, where he strips off his black suit and, now with his naked, misshapen back to us, hoists himself onto the trapeze. Schmidt, meanwhile, is singing a Donizetti aria. This is the first of a number of weird but magical juxtapositions. He dances in the dark with two small torches illuminating random scraps of the stage; he drops himself into coloured lightbulbs, like a necklace of jewels. Perhaps you need to be in a special mood to respond to these curiously, brisquely introduced episodes, but once in that mood, there is beauty, gravity and wonder to be found.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

LARGE MUSEUM PAINTINGS FROM RUSSIA
ROY MILES GALLERY.
29 Brunton Street, W1

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS 0171 733 0000
CORAZON FLAMENCO
"Passion and fire" until 10 Feb
Even 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

OPERA & BALLET

COLLIERIE 0171 839 8300
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tues 7.30 (first night) 7.30
THE MAGIC FLUTE
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30
ROYAL OPERA OF SWITZERLAND
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

THEATRES

ADRIAN
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wed 8.30, Thurs 8.30
SUNSET BOULEVARD
Wed 8.30, Thurs 8.30
BEST MUSICAL
24th CENTURY CARD BOOKINGS
CALL 0171 344 4444 (day) 0171 344 4444 (evening)
No booking fees for Adults
Box Office Closes
Recorded Information 0171 344 4444
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO LABATTS

HAMMERSMITH 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA

"A stunning score" *Sunday Morning*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

TRANSPOSSING

Award-winning play from
India West End
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO 404

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE MUSICAL

"FAME IS A FEAR-GOOD
THEATRE" *London Sunday*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

COMEDY BO

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE WANNAMAKER

by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Even 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

CRITERION 353

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

RUPERT STREET

LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"Wholly funny, wholly
delicious" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

"A RESORT THEATRICAL
DELIGHT" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO LABATTS

HAMMERSMITH 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA

"A stunning score" *Sunday Morning*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

TRANSPOSSING

Award-winning play from
India West End
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO 404

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE MUSICAL

"FAME IS A FEAR-GOOD
THEATRE" *London Sunday*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

COMEDY BO

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE WANNAMAKER

by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Even 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

CRITERION 353

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

RUPERT STREET

LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"Wholly funny, wholly
delicious" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

"A RESORT THEATRICAL
DELIGHT" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO LABATTS

HAMMERSMITH 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA

"A stunning score" *Sunday Morning*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

TRANSPOSSING

Award-winning play from
India West End
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO 404

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE MUSICAL

"FAME IS A FEAR-GOOD
THEATRE" *London Sunday*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

COMEDY BO

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE WANNAMAKER

by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Even 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

CRITERION 353

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

RUPERT STREET

LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"Wholly funny, wholly
delicious" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

"A RESORT THEATRICAL
DELIGHT" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO LABATTS

HAMMERSMITH 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA

"A stunning score" *Sunday Morning*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

TRANSPOSSING

Award-winning play from
India West End
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO 404

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE MUSICAL

"FAME IS A FEAR-GOOD
THEATRE" *London Sunday*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

COMEDY BO

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE WANNAMAKER

by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Even 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

CRITERION 353

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

RUPERT STREET

LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"Wholly funny, wholly
delicious" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

"A RESORT THEATRICAL
DELIGHT" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO LABATTS

HAMMERSMITH 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA

"A stunning score" *Sunday Morning*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

TRANSPOSSING

Award-winning play from
India West End
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO 404

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE MUSICAL

"FAME IS A FEAR-GOOD
THEATRE" *London Sunday*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

COMEDY BO

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE WANNAMAKER

by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Even 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

CRITERION 353

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

RUPERT STREET

LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"Wholly funny, wholly
delicious" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

"A RESORT THEATRICAL
DELIGHT" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO LABATTS

HAMMERSMITH 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA

"A stunning score" *Sunday Morning*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

TRANSPOSSING

Award-winning play from
India West End
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO 404

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE MUSICAL

"FAME IS A FEAR-GOOD
THEATRE" *London Sunday*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

COMEDY BO

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE WANNAMAKER

by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Even 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

CRITERION 353

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

RUPERT STREET

LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"Wholly funny, wholly
delicious" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

"A RESORT THEATRICAL
DELIGHT" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO LABATTS

HAMMERSMITH 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA

"A stunning score" *Sunday Morning*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

TRANSPOSSING

Award-winning play from
India West End
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

APOLLO 404

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE MUSICAL

"FAME IS A FEAR-GOOD
THEATRE" *London Sunday*
Reduced Price from Mon. 10.00
Tues 10.00

COMEDY BO

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

THE WANNAMAKER

by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Even 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

CRITERION 353

0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200
cc 0171 418 6200

RUPERT STREET

LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"Wholly funny, wholly
delicious" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

"A RESORT THEATRICAL
DELIGHT" *Daily*
Tues 7.30, Sat 8.30, Sun 8.30

298,000 readers of this section go to the theatre at least once every 2/3 months. To advertise in The Times theatre listings please call our sales team on 0171 481 982 or fax 0171 481 9313. All major credit cards accepted

Andrew Roberts examines Churchill's wartime advice, and finds a hint of new Labour in the Conservatives' postwar wanderings

When Winston Churchill and Reginald Maudling sat down to write the Leader's Speech for the Tory party conference of 1947 it slowly dawned on Maudling that, despite his assurances to R. A. Butler that spring, Churchill had not actually read the Industrial Charter, the crucial declaration of party policy industrial matters. So Maudling handed him a paragraph summarising it — centralisation, high employment produced by government, strong trade unions, no denationalisation, equal pay, increased spending on training, joint production councils, co-partnership schemes — and Churchill said he did not agree with a word of it. "Well, sir," answered the hapless speech writer, "this is what the conference has adopted." "Oh well," said Churchill, "leave it in."

For all the possible self-parody in the tale, it could serve as the leitmotif for the postwar age of Churchill and Eden. Inattention to detail, lack of interest in domestic issues, laziness over party policy and a general drift towards social democracy led by Butler and Harold Macmillan. Soon after the charter was adopted, Macmillan

Drifting away from victory

THE AGE OF
CHURCHILL AND
EDEN
By John Ramsden
Longman, £55

CHURCHILL AND THE
PROF
By Thomas Wilson
Cassell, £25

wrote to Butler congratulating him and saying that its right-wing opponents, such as Waldron Smithers, Sir Herbert Williams and Ralph Ascheton, thought it "milk and water socialism, which perhaps it is, but... there does not seem to me much harm in this".

John Ramsden's book, the latest edition of the long-running and excellent Longman History of the Conservative Party, is a well researched, objective study of the loudest years when the Tory Wets took over the party from the



Churchill's humour finds favour with Anthony Eden at the 1953 Conservative Party conference

Chamberlainites and made it a social democratic rather than authentically Tory organisation.

If you want to read the charter, whose application under Butskellism did so much damage to

competitiveness, productivity and sterling, just wait for new Labour's election manifesto.

One of Butler's braver ideas — though not one which he was in the end willing to make a resigna-

tion issue — was the propagation of Operation Robot, a scheme to make sterling convertible in 1952. It was scrapped by Churchill's memories of the Gold Standard debacle and the machinations of

his scientific and economic adviser "Prof" Lindemann, Lord Cherwell, the subject of an excellent intellectual biography by his former lieutenant in the Prime Minister's Statistical Office, Thomas Wilson.

Albert Einstein called Lindemann "the last of the great Florentines". Wilson, now Emeritus Professor of Political Economy at Glasgow University, in a book that is more a series of essays than a comprehensive biography, explains why. There was hardly a significant political, scientific or economic issue between 1921 and 1955 on which he was not a convinced and combative campaigner.

Like any expert, he must be judged on results. On the credit side must be his work opposing appeasement, on the anti-Luftwaffe aerial beams, discovering how to save aircraft from spinning out of control (at considerable risk to his own life), helping Jewish scientists to escape

Germany in the 1930s and his defence of the Bomber Command offensive. On the debit side, perhaps, is his support for Morgenthau's plan to pastoralise Germany, his advocacy of aerial mines, his quarrels with Sir Henry Tizard over radar and almost all his postwar Keynesian economic advice. The man of whom it was originally remarked that he was the right of Genghis Khan, he relished the politically incorrect, once asking an idealistic colleague: "What is this foolish proposal to abolish hunger?"

Most prime ministers have extra-special advisers. Tom Jones, Sir Horace Wilson, Marcia Falkender and Alan Walters all gave fear and favour. Lindemann, however, who could in Churchill's words "explain to me in lucid, homely terms what the issues were," was the greatest of them all. This book, which takes advantage of the expiry of the 30 and 50-year rules in a way earlier biographies could not, triumphantly succeeds in filling a gap in the intellectual history of the Second World War.

Glad to bear the stamp of lowly origin

Simon Barnes

IN QUEST OF THE
SACRED BABOON:
A Scientist's Journey
By Hans Kummer
Princeton University Press, £20

The proper study of mankind is man. I always thought that Pope's conclusion represented a hopelessly limited view of things. There was a time when I spent every day chasing the same pride of 12: surely the proper study of mankind is lion.

I lived in an ebony glade which I shared with a troop of baboons. The sound of their squabbles and the sight of their peacemaking was an aspect of daily routine, but I did not warm to them. They were my closest relatives in the African bush; perhaps that was why I found them the least sympathetic.

The hamadryas baboon, revered by the Ancient Egyptians and the subject of this absorbing book, is perhaps even more disquieting. The males are much bigger than the females, and wear an elaborate mantle of silky fur, but this reaches barely to the hips "leaving his bottom bare, and to our sensibilities, embarrassingly unprotected... furthermore, the large penis is driven exuberantly erect even by friendly interest and the red hindquarters are resplendent at any time."

Add to this females whose rear ends swell and glow when they become sexually receptive, and it is clear we are entering a minefield of behavioural possibilities.

The study of animal behaviour remains a problem for proper scientists. The search for objectivity too often involves an act of denial: they dare not incline towards the error of sentimentality. Anthropomorphism is seen as the sin of witchcraft: yet all observers know that understanding can only come from sympathy with species, with groups, with individuals.

Kummer's account, translated by M. Ann Biederman-Thorson, of tracking down these elusive animals in the Danakil Desert has a thoroughly enjoyable amount of speculation and subjectivity: for it is the bold personal document of a scientist whose reputation is safe. So why spend your life studying monkeys? Well, we can start with a narrow objective, and ask — as Kummer, Professor of Ethology at the University of Zurich, does — what the hamadryas baboon teaches us about ourselves.

For example, the baboons who live in zoos, under conditions of enforced idleness, liberated from

(or crippled by the removal of) the demands of making a living — finding food, avoiding becoming food — have developed a measurably more elaborate, perhaps decadent, social life.

One group developed what Kummer calls "the mantle cult", in which the lone adult male's furry cloak became an object of something very like veneration: constant and obsessive grooming of the male by the rest of the group became a major part of daily life: something neither Kummer nor any other observer has seen in the wild. In this we can see something like symbol, religion, and its development in "civilised" (zoo-like?) life — if we wish.

But Kummer finds the profoundest joys in what he terms "the Adam experience", the illusion of "an existence before humans had appeared and began to change everything". This is precisely what I felt myself, when I sat silent in the forest with a bushbuck unaware and five yards from my foot.

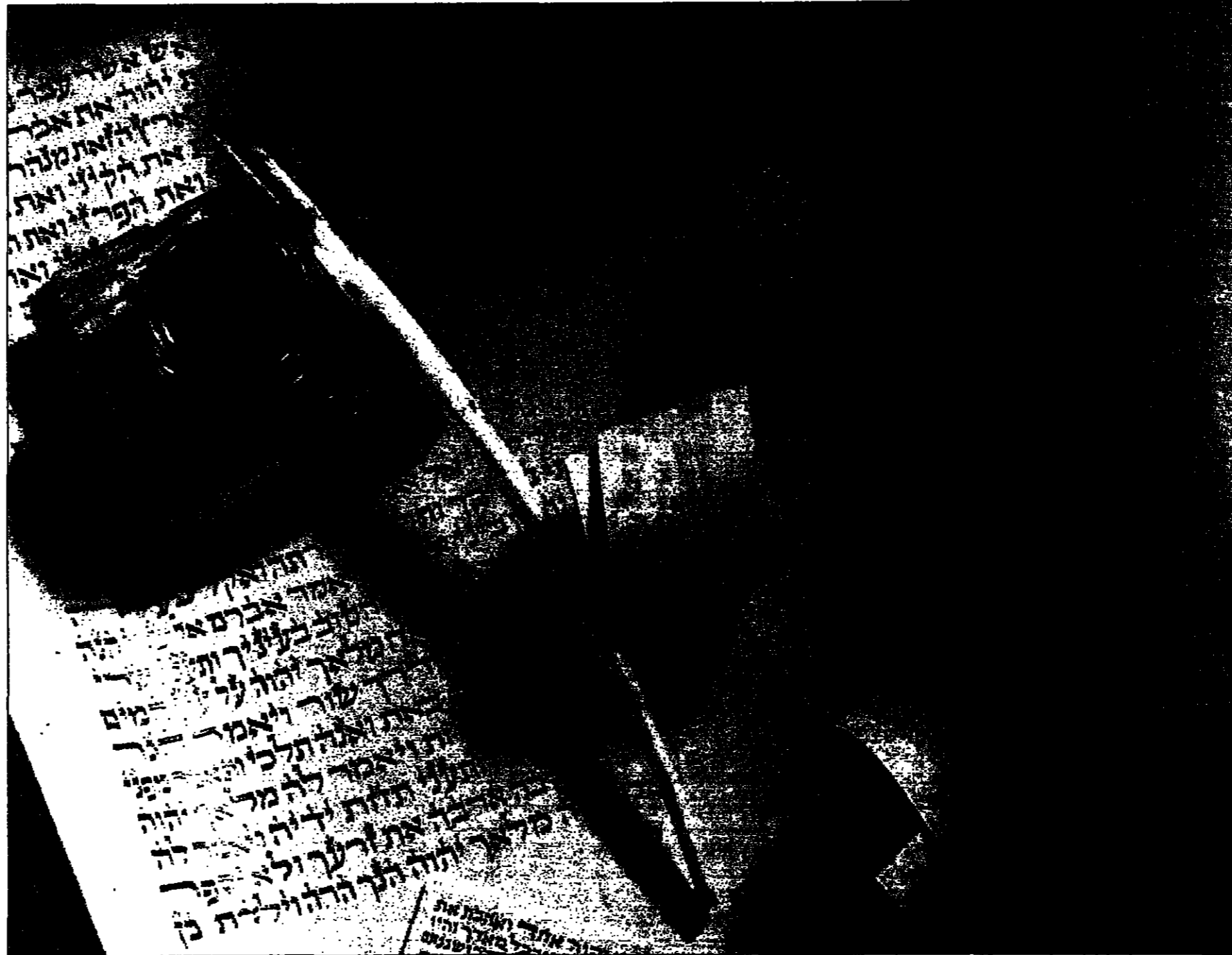
But he still savours "the zoologist's dream of being accepted by wild animals, nourished by Kipling's Mowgli and Lofting's Dr Dolittle". These were the heroes of my own youth, although I really wanted to be Bagheera, the black panther. It is part of the dream of improving the human condition by attempting escape from it: to seek wisdom beyond species, among our fellow-mammals.

Not for what they can teach us about ourselves, but for their own sake. And not for the sake of the objective gathering of facts and observations, either. Kummer writes: "Pure research has its origin in the subjective, in a human being's almost unconscious but powerful longing to feel at home in the greater order of things."

Religion, he says, is the oldest path for the search. Kummer happened to choose the way of the sacred baboon: why not? The proper study of mankind is life.



The hamadryas in the Tutankhamun treasure (1340 BC)



The handwritten scrolls of the Torah, demonstrating the need to preserve Jewish tradition (from *Symbols of Judaism* by Marc-Alain Ouaknin, Editions Assouline, £35)

The purpose of survival

Julia Neuberger

VANISHING DIASPORA
The Jews in Europe
since 1945
By Bernard Wasserstein
Hamish Hamilton, £20

Jews went there on the Silk Road, and a community persisted for eight centuries before merging into the surrounding culture. We European Jews will also persist, by analogy, but will eventually forget why we still carry out a few Jewish rituals, and gradually assimilate completely into the surrounding secularism.

Or will we? I take this intensely personally, as a British Jewess of German origins. Whether we disappear is up to us. Wasserstein suggests some ways out of the apathy, including the replacement, gradually, of Jewish religious observance, clearly on the decline, with Jewish "culture".

THIS WAS first suggested seriously by the French Jewish intellectual Richard Marienstras, who argued that we could be Jews without necessarily being Jewish by religion or by identification with Zionist nationalism, the two main ways we have identified ourselves since the Second World War. His answer lay in a renewal of Jewish

of the diaspora. If we can also welcome those non-Jews who marry our children, drawing them into our community rather than seeking to deny them, we might both make a stab at keeping our numbers up, and increase our intellectual and moral strength.

For Wasserstein is right when he says, we will not succeed by sectarian Jewish day-school education, despite it being seen as the panacea for all ills by Jewish leaders. The experience of the Roman Catholic Church, with its long history of separate schooling, has not been to increase observance, nor even identification. Nor will we do it by Zionist enthusiasm.

The survival, should it happen, has to come out of our own conviction that there is within Judaism — its history, its cultures, its moral values, its religion, any aspect of its being — that which is worth preserving. We cannot maintain identity by bullying our young. But we should be able, in our families and our communal organisations, to enthuse them for something so

exciting intellectually, spiritually and morally that they would wish to seek it for themselves. If the excitement about values is there, then the absence of anti-Semitism, the acceptance in the wider world, will not kill our community by kindness. But if we cannot find anything worthwhile in our heritage, or do not even look, then we will disappear.

THE WORLD from which my family comes, the rich world of German Jewry, was destroyed in hatred. The world in which I have grown up, of liberal tolerant Britain with its acceptance of Jews post-war, has a place for a culturally, religiously and historically diverse group in its midst, which has a contribution to make to the common good. Unlike Wasserstein, I believe that in Britain and France, if our communal leadership were to be braver, more tolerant of those whose Jewish status is dubious, and less willing to give in to those who say we must keep our group "purely Jewish" by dismissing those who intermarry, we could still have a chance of surviving, and prospering, and bringing something of spiritual and moral value into the wider domain.

THE BOOK

THAT ROCKED

THE ESTABLISHMENT

THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER

مكتبة من الأصول

The State We're In
WILL HUTTON

The
OUT NO
WI

As the butcher turns to dust

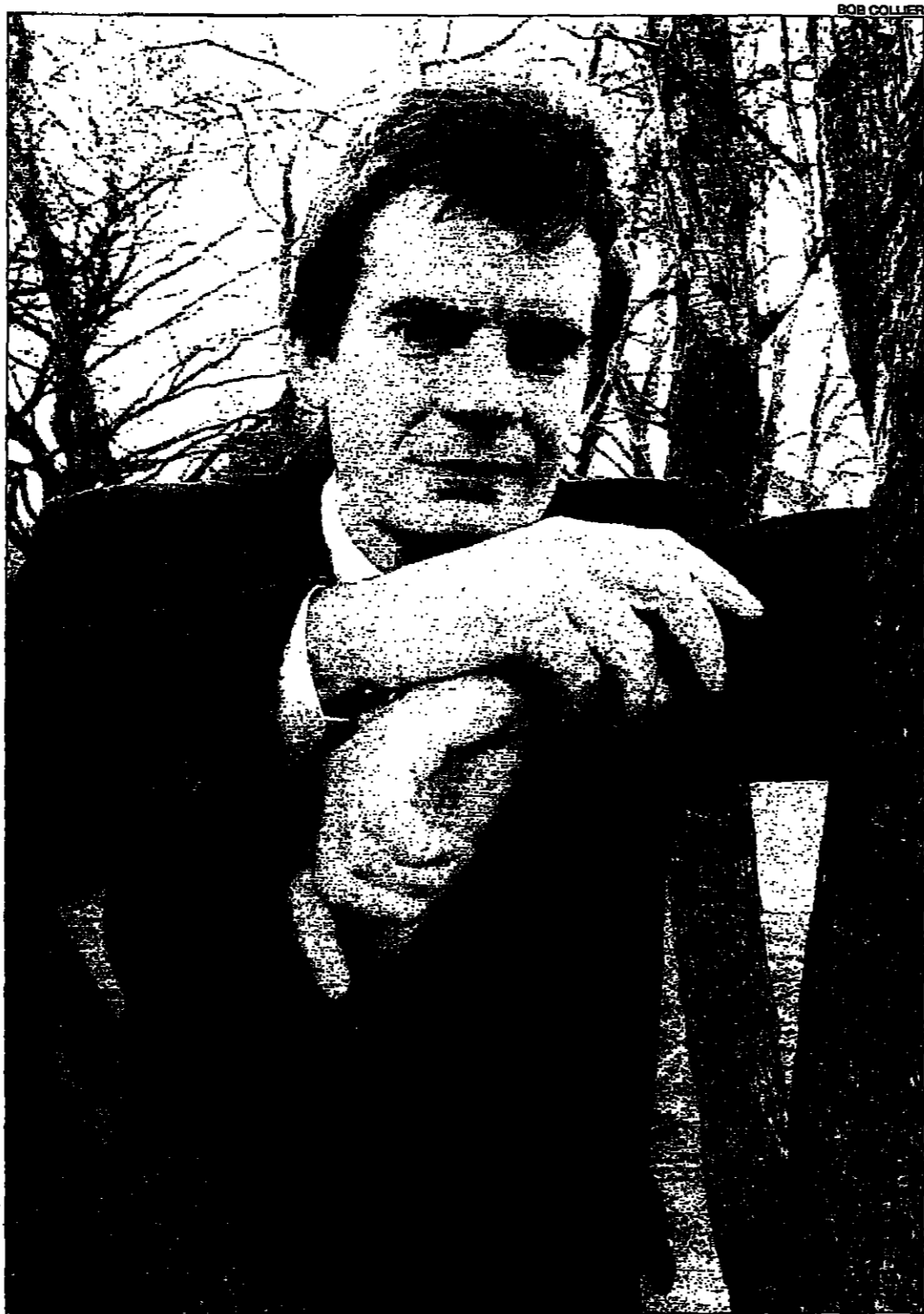
Few novels of this century have taken on the weight of modern myth, but William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* is one of them. A tortuous masterpiece about the Bundren family's journey to bury their mother, their lives unraveling while her corpse festers on the back of their cart. Rage, rivalry, illegitimacy, unwanted pregnancy, madness and the brutal elements conjoin to conjure a furious but transcendent vision of the Bundrens, and of the American South that spawned them.

In the hands of an uncertain talent, any reworking of this narrative — and particularly a contemporary, British reworking — would be folly, an invitation to bathos; but Graham Swift's new novel, *Last Orders*, is a triumphant, and ultimately redemptive, adaptation of Faulkner's classic. It, too, is the tale of a journey to a burial, and in its telling Swift has taken up Faulkner's device of alternating named monologues. The novel is punctuated with more specific debts to its predecessor, both in form and in detail: and yet *Last Orders* is not mere pastiche. A resonant work of art in its own right, it confirms its author as one of his generation's finest, with an imagination of rare immediacy and vitality.

As perhaps befits its Englishness, the novel explores largely the turmoil of an older generation rather than the demons of the young. Four men embark upon a day-trip from Bermondsey to Margate to scatter the ashes of the deceased butcher, Jack Dodds, in accordance with his last request. The youngest among them, his adopted son Vince, is over 40, a flashy car salesman who spurned his father's trade. The other three — Ray "Lucky" Johnson, a man with a knack for the horses; a bellicose fruit and veg stall owner named Lenny Tate; and Vic Tucker, the dignified undertaker — are Jack's closest friends, for whom his death is a reminder that they too, are nearing the end of life's road. And yet they set off in Vince's borrowed Mercedes, on a sun-filled morning, in an aura not of doom but of festivity: "like it's something Jack has done for us, so as to make us feel special, so as to give us a treat."

The route to Margate offers unforeseen detours — to Rochester, to the naval memorial at Chatham, to a country hillside in Kent, and to Canterbury Cathedral — and provides each of the travellers with his own winding path of recollection, remorse and reprieve. What emerges is not only the pattern of almost gothic tragedy that has touched them all, but intimations of their entire Cookneyworld: of small businesses passed from father to son, of Smithfield market at dawn, of hours in the local pub and the betting shop. In this solidity there is both solace and deadening limitation, but every man in the Mercedes has nurtured his share of secret dreams.

The novel offers voice to the absent women, too: to Mandy, Vince's wife and above all to Amy, Jack's widow, who has declined to join the men. "My own journey to make. Their journey and mine... This is where I belong, upstairs on this bus... Neither here nor there, just travelling in between", she reflects, on her way instead to visit



Graham Swift: the deceptive simplicity of his writing only adds to the power of his latest novel

Claire Messud

LAST ORDERS
By Graham Swift
Picador, £15.99

her severely retarded daughter June. June has been the central tragedy of Amy and Jack's life, the wedge between them and their unborn children. Ray's Susie, long gone to Australia, Lenny's shunned Sally, who once loved, and was loved by, Vince Dodds; and Vince's own Kath, traded for a car sale to one of Vince's clients.

As in *As I Lay Dying* the funeral trip teases to the surface the roiling resentments and agonies of years; but Swift, in *Last Orders* allows for reconciliation, and even for hope. And while Faulkner's talent was to write himself into each of his characters, to insert improbable, magnificent passages of articulation into the minds of his creations, Swift has chosen to efface his writerliness almost entirely from this book: there is a deceptive simplicity in the novel's diction, a captivating authenticity in the voices it projects. This difference may bespeak the distance between the daring of genius and the control of excellence, between the work and the reworking; but readers should be in no doubt that *Last Orders* is an extremely fine novel, a surpassing testament to Swift's vibrant and powerful gifts.

THIS IS A memoir with a difference. Very little of it actually comes from the memory of the author — the French historical novelist Marguerite Yourcenar, who was the first woman to be elected to the Académie Française, and who died in 1987.

The book is an account of her ancestors, from the Ancient Gauls down to her father. In the early chapters, she evokes the "virginal silence" of the wide Flanders marshes, when they were still without gods, monsters or men. By the 15th century she is able to distinguish names, such as Cleenewerck, which figure in her known ancestry. They are like tiny figures in the background of a painting by Bruegel or Bosch, she says — and with the aid of history she conjures up an idea of how they might have thought and lived under the cruel rule of the Spanish crown. She establishes that her forebear Claire Fourmont was the niece of both of Rubens's wives, and is diverted into a vivid little essay on Rubens's sensuous art — "like a lover in a bed, like a Triton in the water, he frolics in a sea of forms".

For her grandfather's time, she has much more information, mainly handed down to her through her family. By now their name had expanded to Cleenewerck de Crayencour ("Yourcenar" is an anagram), and they lived in Bailleul in

French Flanders, just on the Belgian border. She draws a sharp portrait of her bullying grandmother Noëmi, and a rather less sharp one of her grandfather Michel-Charles. In her unflinching literary way, she evokes his life as a fashionable young man in Paris by describing the dangerous young women in Balzac that he would not have met.

Her picture of her father Michel is the best and the most intimate — his escape from home to enlist in the army, his desertion from the army to live in England, his desultory life of marriage and

Rachel Cusk on a strike at Martin Amis's domain

Feeding time at the English zoo

English *Settlement* wants to be a big book; a very big book. The biggest book, as Martin Amis might say: so this is Amis's world we are dropping in on, an abbreviated tour of the world around the eschatological highlights of post-modern urban life: a morning in the museum of decaying culture, into the rotting heart of the class system for lunch, and then out in time to watch our guide lift with the toe of his elegant boot the rock that England squirms under and let it come thudding down again.

Set in a penumbra, ubiquitously littered 1990s London, the novel purports to be the narrative of Scott Marshall, an American management consultant employed by a rapacious City firm, whose apparently limitless appetite for sweeping social discourse propels us through an unflagging and profoundly unpleasant autopsy of the country in which he finds himself.

It is to D. J. Taylor's credit that he doesn't even attempt to render the idiom of his narrator, opting instead for lofty, cut-glass prose, occasionally permitting the odd Americanism to bunt down in his exquisitely furnished vocabulary; but it does mean that the novel is awash with unattributed intelligence, rogue perceptions, and a central character so indistinct that he is driven to telling us what everybody else says about him, just so that we know.

According to one of these assessments, Scott is a "conceited little prick"; but this comes as something of a surprise — and comes, too, at the novel's end — transforms the flight into a gesture of disavowal, an authorial disclaimer designed to retract at the last minute what a few pages earlier looked like becoming a grandiloquent *jacuuse*.

Scott's story is the old fashioned kind, in which strands of mystery are amply paid out, to be frantically plaited into resolution for a final *coup de théâtre*. Rumbles are heard of a murderous management buy-out at the firm; an enigmatic new girlfriend is on the scene, the frequent comparison of whose legs to a pair of scissors whets the appetite for some emasculatory high-jinks later on. Scott has been assigned to the accounts of Barry Mower, king of a pornography empire and now proprietor of an ailing Waltham football club; and from over the Atlantic,

ENGLISH SETTLEMENT
By D. J. Taylor
Chatto & Windus, £15.99

Scott's absentee Anglophile father is sending cryptic messages and threatening to visit. Taylor's grasp of life in the City is sure: the accountant's argot, the theistic greed, the computer-game annihilation by which the besuited become the vagrant, gathering their possessions into black bin-liners. Despite some



Taylor: artful but contrived

interminable detours (the fulfilment of the jacket's promise of an "insider's view of how the City works", no doubt) down the long and featureless corridors of corporate history, the brute smell of a cruel and deeply masculine world wafts through: a world of the antipathetic but proximate instincts of group behaviour and self-preservation.

Faintly implausibly, Scott's profession affords him access to the upper echelons of English society, where he beds a variety of Home Counties lovelies; encounters whose Laura Ashley leitmotif is deployed somewhat beyond endurance to entrap a world which remains disdainfully out of reach. The aristocracy, that teichy and slumbering beast, swais at Taylor with its tail; but in this lightning tour of our national zoo, we're onto the next exhibit soon enough. A clunking gear change from high life to low brings us to Barry Mower, the porn mogul

with a heart of gold plate whose taste for the unsophisticated ushers in that other English staple, football. Mower is a fine comic character, but chapters devoted to the subject of "How Barry does it" make excessive demands on our interest in him.

But as with so much else in this curious novel, Mower and the world he occupies are described rather than captured, with a kind of anthropological zeal which holds empathy at bay. Taylor keeps the novel running like a documentarist's camera, while his characters meander fruitlessly through their recollections of times better, more interesting, than these. "Incredible, really," muses Barry. "I mean, LCC development down in the East End. Old bomb sites down in Poplar and Shoreditch where the council was putting up flats and that... fit a block of flats with duff circuits, say, and fix a maintenance deal with the council. It's always bugged, and they're always having to call you in, but if there's any trouble, well, you just blame your suppliers."

Born along on this tide of *fin de siècle* weariness, the novel looks set to subside into somnolence, despite the occasionally buoyant piece of personal clutter which floats to the surface. Scott's fear of choking — he once nearly died, of combined embarrassment and suffocation, when a piece of seafood lodged in his throat during a high-octane Manhattan business lunch — is a touching sign of life in an otherwise bloodless landscape, and his telephone conversations with his dreadful brother in Montana possess an animus lacking elsewhere.

All, however, founders on a rocky subplot concerning a female serial killer who cuts off men's genitalia and dubs the letters RAM (Revenge Against Men, stupid) on their bedroom walls; a cheap frill stitched with such inanely winking irony to the hem of the plot that when abruptly it falls off two thirds of the way through one hardly notices.

Even a ponderous citation from Anthony Powell ("I began to brood on the complexity of writing a novel about English life") cannot give weight to an occasionally dazzling, but more often artful, contrivance. *English Settlement* sets out to take the big picture; but all we end up with is somebody else's photographs.

Wan elegy, vital imagery

Seamus Heaney's first publication since winning the Nobel Prize is a translation undertaken with Stanislaw Baranczak, from a 16th-century Polish poet. Heaney has always pursued poetry in every shape and form, but I would be curious to learn how Baranczak, a Polish scholar and poet and a colleague of Heaney's at Harvard, got him interested in the enterprise (always assuming it was that way round).

Laments are a set of 19 elegies by Jan Kochanowski for his daughter Ursula, who died at the age of two and a half. In his introduction, Baranczak describes the scandal caused by her publication in 1580. Contemporary taste, it appears, held that only great men were a fit subject for elegy and obituary. One is reminded of the paintings of the period, the children like scaled-down adults in family groups, the stiff little doublets and farthingales.

Kochanowski shows some of that stiffness too, as he mourns his daughter as his "poet-heiress", a well-named girl who said her prayers, was good to the servants and curtsied nicely. It makes you realise that childhood was only invented much later.

either in the century of Ronsieu or Mill or, most likely, Freud. Kochanowski's real tenderness towards what is in essence an effigy is an awkward proposition: he simply doesn't have the words and perceptions that would describe a child credibly to us.

And the status of the text in the original language is unclear. Baranczak assures us that the poet practically invented Polish as a literary language, when many writers were equally proficient in Latin. But even a translation by an English contemporary of Kochanowski's like Sidney or Ben Jonson (the author of *On My First Daughter* and *On My Son*, poems to his dead children) would not have matched the primary thrill of the Polish. The couplets of Heaney and Baranczak appear faithful enough (the Polish is printed *en face*, a bold and proud touch), but 600 years after Chaucer, 400 after Marlowe, they do have a certain routine to them.

The result is almost a double, mismatched naivety: Kochanowski, experienced Renaissance man and court poet, going through the gamut of philosophy and religion for consolation; and the restrained, uneventful language of the translation. Only rarely does it rise beyond verseification, as here, where the compression is almost proverbial, and set off with the deliberately botched rhyme: "We play at blind man's buff/ Until hard edges break into our path."

The final lament, a five-page dream poem, perhaps suggests why Heaney took this on: there are echoes of the elegies in *Field Work*, of the Danz translation, of *Station Island*.

The Spanish poet Luis de Gongora (1561-1627, a generation after Kochanowski) is the only poet I can think of whose name has spawned a noun. Gongorism, according to the dictionary, is "a literary style characterised by studied obscurity and the use of various

ornate devices". And yet Gongora comes across as a poet of glittering images and tremendous rhetorical imagination.

Michael Smith's work in introducing and annotating the poems is an admirable bit of advocacy. He quotes Lorca on the poet: "Nothing can be more misguided than to read his madrigal to a rose with a rose in one's hand. Either the rose or the madrigal should be sufficient", to convey the abstractness and autonomy of Gongora's writing.

His translations of the poems — mainly sonnets — are rhymeless and unscanned, but they preserve the taut grace of the original, like these lines on an epitaph: "but they are honoured by immortal verse/ that shall persist in lettered tomb, Felisomena, the hard stone, / Daliso the sculptor, their ill the chisel." One would "buy" Gongora just for those two last lines. The American poet Robert Lowell translated two of Gongora's poems in the mid 1960s, and they show what an impact he might have — has had — on English poetry: "The hours will hardly pardon us their loss/ those brilliant hours that were away our days/ our days that ate into eternity."

Delicate threads spun to the past

Derwent May

HOW MANY YEARS
A Memoir
By Marguerite Yourcenar
Translated by Maria Louise Ascher
Aidan Ellis, £20

French Flanders, just on the Belgian border. She draws a sharp portrait of her bullying grandmother Noëmi, and a

rather less sharp one of her grandfather Michel-Charles. In her unflinching literary way, she evokes his life as a fashionable young man in Paris by describing the dangerous young women in Balzac that he would not have met.

Her picture of her father Michel is the best and the most intimate — his escape from home to enlist in the army, his desertion from the army to live in England, his desultory life of marriage and



Yourcenar: a dreamlike telling of her family's history

amours. But even this part of the book is, like the rest, written in the historic present tense — as if all is happening under our eyes, and yet all is just a fiction or a dream.

The whole story has a strange feeling of remoteness, and one that is fortified by the author's fatalism and irony. She looks at photographs of her father as a child and as an old man, and comments that "the entire interval between them seems a vain confusion, an agitation with no point, a useless chaos that makes one wonder why it was necessary to pass through it at all." Her tale is like a delicate, ancient spider's web that could crumble at a touch — and one that she would be quite content to see crumble.

SATURDAY BOOKS

The trials of an editor bringing a book to birth: Tunku Varadarajan on a Vietnamese novel *Without a Name*: Christina Odone's first novel: plus paperbacks and more

The State We're In
OUT NOW IN VINTAGE PAPERBACK

WILL HUTTON

THE NEW AND REVISED EDITION

Five go out to fulfil great expectations



David Hands, rugby union correspondent, profiles players with the potential to turn their national teams' hopes into championship glory over the next two months

Lawrence Dallaglio

THE maturing of Lawrence Dallaglio has been one of the more impressive aspects of England's recent progress. There was a time when it seemed a bright young talent might be lured too frequently to the sevens circuit, but the events of this season have provided an appropriate finishing school.

The pedigree was there — England schools, colts, under-21 students and A XV — and so was the physique. The doubt was the application. At 20, though, many a young player's head would have been turned by the invitations which flooded towards the England team that won the inaugural world sevens tournament in Edinburgh in 1993. It took some time for England to trust him with an A-team place, partly because they were uncertain about his best position. Dallaglio's capacity to play across the entire back row made him an ideal replacement, though his raw skills were sufficient to impress Jack Rowell, then the incoming manager, who took him with the senior side to South Africa in 1994.

But, with hindsight, the making of Dallaglio may prove to be the disruptions at Wasps caused by the autumnal departure of Rob Andrew and Dean Ryan. The club made him captain at the age of 23. "I drew strength from that and I knew that, if I were to fulfil my hopes of international rugby, I would have to play very well every week," Dallaglio, a final-year student at Kingston University, said.

He gained a place on the bench against South Africa in November — when he won his first cap after injury to Tim Rodber — and was retained for the meeting with Western Samoa last month. He needs time to learn the different lines of the open-side flanker but the three-year wrangle as to the best occupant of the No 7 jersey could well be over.



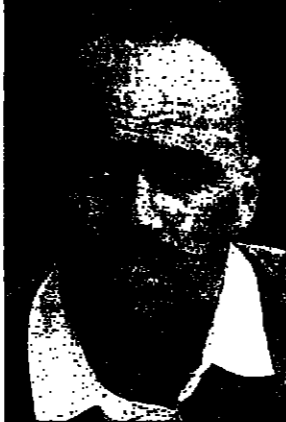
Dallaglio's sevens technique is proving a valuable asset

Kurt McQuilkin

THE New Zealand thread which now runs through Irish rugby takes its physical manifestation on the pitch from the national side's newest centre, Kurt McQuilkin. Not that McQuilkin achieved All Black status before beginning his three-year residential qualification for Ireland, but his understanding of the requirements of the new coach, Murray Kidd, will be vital to Ireland's wellbeing.

McQuilkin was born not far from Kildare in King County, New Zealand. He enjoyed a provincial career with North Auckland and King Country before joining Bective Rangers, the Dublin club coached by his father. No. 8; he became eligible for Ireland last November and, even at the comparatively advanced age of 29, was rushed in to the side.

His play for Leinster this season clearly demonstrates why. Not only does he have the speed off the mark and the strength to take his team over the advantage line, he performs automatically all the humdrum chores which are second nature to New Zealanders — the obvious defensive duties, the less obvious



McQuilkin: works hard

covering of the weaknesses of others, the acceptance of responsibility.

One piece of work for the province against Pontypridd was outstanding. Off balance as the Welsh club attacked, he had the wit both to cover a cross kick when his full back had been submerged and to hook away the clearance, almost over his shoulder. The debut cap against the United States earlier this month was almost a matter of course.

He plays in the position that Kidd himself occupied as a player. Since John Mitchell, the former Walkato No 8, is assisting Kidd this season, it makes sense to follow the train of thought through to the



Califano has quickly become a formidable addition to the French armoury

Christian Califano

IF you can hold your own in New Zealand, the chances are that you can distinguish yourself in any company. Christian Califano, then no more than 22, made his first international appearance against the All Blacks in Christchurch in 1994 and shared in France's memorable 2-0 series victory.

His first task was to force his way ahead of vastly more experienced players in Laurent Seigne, Louis Armary and Laurent Bénézech and, full of confidence after being named the best tight-head in France after his displays for Toulouse, he did. His next problem was his opponent, the formidable Richard Loe, who asks the sort of questions — not all of them covered in the law book — that few young props can answer.

Califano's response was so successful that he became an immediate fixture in a France team which has developed a reputation for sound scrummaging. But his game offers far more than that. His ball

handling is utterly secure and his mobility about the field, at 16st 7lb, makes him a formidable addition to the French armoury.

Anyone watching his displays in the Heineken Cup this season, notably in Toulouse's winning final against Cardiff, will bear witness to his prowess (the more remarkable since a rib injury had forced him off the field a week earlier against Swansea) and one of the camoes of the game with England on Saturday will be his clash with Graham Rowntree, so similarly accomplished.

Employed by Aérospatiale Toulouse, Califano has won 16 caps in just 18 months. His secure technique at the scrum in the cornerstone position is allied to support for his jumpers, which has helped to improve France's lineout so significantly. His three years with Toulouse make him familiar with the all-round game that Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach and himself a product of Toulouse, seeks to use and his youth ensures a lengthy spell in the team's front row.



Thomas: pace and vision

Justin Thomas

IF there is one position on the field in which a player of vision may profit, it is full back; if there is one quality with which that player needs to be blessed above all, it is pace. In Justin Thomas, Wales have found a happy marriage of both — now all they need to do is release him.

Thomas stands at the head of the new breed of youngsters who have been led in to the national XV over the past two months, symbolising the hope that the dragon's fire can indeed be rekindled. He has thrilled crowds at Llanelli with his poise and fluent counter-attacking skills and, above all, with the confidence of youth in a country whose patience has been sorely tested of late.

Thomas, then 21, made his debut in the daunting surroundings of Ellis Park, Johannesburg, last September, when his slight frame looked unlikely to challenge the rampaging South African forwards. Yet Thomas played his part in a brave defensive display. His catching of the high ball is good but it is in attack that his gifts really come into play.

He has the pace of a wing and the timing of a stand-off half; although he joins his backs in a variety of positions, his great strength is inter-play with his wings, who this season may well turn out to be his club colleagues, Iwan Evans and Wayne Proctor.

But he has the footballer's instinctive knowledge of the moment when best to attack and the place where the enemy is weakest. Since he is unlikely to break defences with the sheer strength upon which so many modern backs depend, his sidestep is an invaluable weapon with which to puncture the first line and his speed can then carry him considerable distances.

Last season, Thomas, a development officer for the Welsh Rugby Union, was named the most promising player in the country. Promise has now to be turned into fulfilment and that will not happen overnight. When it does, it will be exciting to see.



Redpath has become the target of several English clubs

Bryan Redpath

POUND for pound, there will be few smaller players in this season's championship than Bryan Redpath, the Medrose scrum half. At a shade over 5ft 6in and 11 stone, he represents one of rugby union's enduring triumphs, that of the smaller man in the land of giants.

More than that, though, Redpath, 25, has quickly emerged from the shadows to become one of the vital cogs in the Scotland engine. Like Graeme Bachop for New Zealand, his swift hands and instant decision-making buy time and space for his colleagues, while his physique puts a premium on skill.

Like so many players these days, his grounding in the game includes a summer in New Zealand, where he learnt that the scrum half's repertoire should include a sound defence. Redpath has a well-deserved reputation for tackling, which helped him initially towards A caps and a tour to the South Pacific in 1993 before his debut international, as a replacement against New Zealand later that year.

Two-thirds of his 15 caps came last year. Before that, he had to contest a place with Andy Nicol and Derrick Patterson while overhead lurked the presence of Gary Armstrong. It speaks volumes for his character that he has shrugged off such challenges to emerge as first choice in his own right; the self-employed joiner has become the target of

several clubs south of the Border.

The challenge for Redpath now is to forge an alliance with Gregor Townsend. Hitherto, he has partnered Craig Chalmers, his club stand-off half, but Scotland have opted for the electric Townsend and so Redpath must help him to adjust to the demands of a position which he has occu-

pled only intermittently in international rugby.

Already Townsend has expressed appreciation of his pass; Redpath is confident enough in his own speed off the mark to ask questions himself of opposing defences, though he will hope for better possession than that supplied by his pack against Italy A earlier this month.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand from a pairs event, shown to me by my old partner Chris Dixon. It illustrates the theme of 'side-suit first'.

Dealer East	Love all	Match point pairs
♠ 642		
♥ 103		
♦ A1055		
♣ JT		
	♠ 98732	
	♥ KQ643	
	♦ 98	
	♣ KQ7654	
	♠ 445	
	♥ J92	
	♦ 44	
	♣ A9752	

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: Jack of clubs

At some tables East opened Three Hearts, and when South was playing double for penalties (not greatly used nowadays) the final contract was Three Hearts doubled. The normal play in the heart suit, with no other indications, is to lead towards the king. However, with the likelihood that South has all the hearts East can restrict him to two tricks by starting by leading low towards the ten. That way East makes nine tricks if South doesn't find his diamond ruff.

Some Souths played Five Clubs, and received the best lead of a trump. You might think that with ten trumps between the hands it does no harm to draw a second trump, but if you did that you are guilty of a fundamental mistake, of not counting our tricks. Say you win the second trump in dummy, and belatedly play a diamond. The defence will switch to hearts or

spades, and though after each ruff in dummy you can ruff a diamond in hand, by the time the fifth round is established you have no way back to dummy.

The correct technique is to count your tricks: five trumps in hand, two aces and three ruffs — ten tricks in all. To make eleven you have to establish the diamonds, and the way to do that is to play a diamond at trick two. Then if the defence continue trumps to thwart your cross-ruff plan, you win the trump in dummy. Now you are in the right hand to establish the diamonds — after ruffing a diamond you cash the major suit aces and eventually at the end of the cross-ruff the fifth diamond becomes established and you are in dummy to cash it.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

New league

At Simpson's-in-the-Strand earlier this week the new Martell League for London clubs was launched, with Barry Martin as the organiser.

It will be a knockout tournament and first-round pairings include: Roehampton Club v The Saville Club; The RAC v Simpson's; Brooks' Club v Hurlingham; Chelsea Arts Club v RAC B team; East India Club v Hurlingham B team.

The first-round opponent for the BBC team is yet to be announced.

Blazing bishops

The following brilliant game was played in a subsidiary tournament at Hastings this year. Black sacrificed a rook for a minor piece in order to dominate the board with his bishop pair.

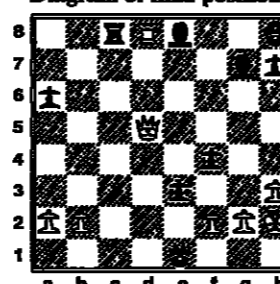
White: Nunn
Black: Cherniav
Hastings Weekend Tournament, January 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nxd4	Nf6
5 Nc3	e5
6 Nxb5	d6
7 Bg5	a6
8 Na3	b5
9 Bb3	a5
10 Nf5	Bc8
11 Bc2	Be6
12 O-O	Bg7
13 Ch6	h4
14 c4	bxc4

White to move. This position is from the game Agdestein — Hodgson, Hastings Premier 1991. As well as being a world class chess player, Norwegian grandmaster, Simen Agdestein, has also played international football. Here he demonstrates his chess skill with a fine finish. White to play and win.

Diagram of final position



Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders may be made to 01376 327901).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene



Solution on page 46

England leave Richards in reserve

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SOMEWHAT to his surprise, Dean Richards will find himself in Paris this weekend, though not in the England team that will open the 1996 five nations' championship against France. The Leicester captain, added to the squad at the weekend, takes his place among the replacements after the withdrawal of Tim Rodber.

On Sunday, there were doubts over Rodber, who was demoted to the bench after the game against Western Samoa, and Ben Clarke, the chosen No 8. Rodber damaged knee and ankle ligaments playing for Northampton, while a scan revealed that Clarke was carrying a groin injury. When England trained in bright sunshine at Roehampton yesterday, however, Clarke declared himself fit.

There may be repercussions after training but Ben and the doctors are confident he will be fit. Jack Rowell, the team manager, said: "The rest and some treatment have done him good."

It is no criticism of Clarke to suggest that Richards, 32, would be a valuable asset at the Parc des Princes, given the

rudeness displays against South Africa and Western Samoa. After the defeat by New Zealand in the World Cup semi-final, there seemed to be no international future for Richards but he remains one of the commanding figures in the domestic game.

In training last Sunday, the work of the forwards lacked focus and even Rowell admitted that the qualities required against the French in Paris — where England last lost in 1988 — were the traditional

English ones of fortitude and discipline, which Richards embodies.

"A lot of rugby is about doing the basics well, about being efficient for 80 minutes, and that's what England should be good at," Rowell said. "If we do the basics right we have a clear chance of victory but we need to fence the French in France this year look to have a well-balanced team. They have the framework in place and all they are doing is in-filling, rather than

replacing the spine of the team, which is what we are having to do."

England have prepared a video which concentrates on the two new centres, Thomas Castaignede and Richard Dourthe, who made so strong an impression during the autumn series against New Zealand. Rowell admires France's ability to introduce two 20-year-olds to international rugby, though he will look to the established pair of Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott to close them down.

"If we are underdogs for this game, we have not talked that way ourselves," Rowell said. "This will be a tough game, tough for France too. They have players new to the championship; they may take time to adjust."

Not if Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, can help it. Skrela hopes his side can prove that victory in the third-place play-off match in the World Cup in Pretoria was no fluke. "Toulouse showed [in the Heineken Cup final] you can impose your own game by playing total rugby," Skrela said. "It's up to us to follow their example."

Lomu on wanted list

OVERSEAS players of the calibre of Jonah Lomu and Francois Pienaar have been approached to take part in the game at Twickenham on April 21 that will inaugurate the celebration of 125 years of the Rugby Football Union (David Hands writes).

Leicester, the 1995 league champions, will play an RFU President's XV designed to include two players from each of the leading rugby-playing countries, and certainly two from Japan, as Sanyo Electric will sponsor the match.

"We expect to receive £100,000 from the game, though a lot depends on the crowd," Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, said yesterday. He is hoping for a crowd of 25,000, although if the guest XV includes players such as Philippe Sella and Michael Lynagh, who have also been approached, it may be larger.

The bigger the crowd, the more the leading clubs will benefit as Leicester intend to share some of the profits throughout the first division.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

POGUE

- a. A scoundrel, brawler
- a. A bag, purse, wallet
- a. A comfortable shoe

RAKSHI

- a. A Tibetan liquor
- a. A Japanese tea-bowl
- a. A malignant demon

PONTIANAK

- a. A Cumbrian motor-car
- a. A type of vampire
- a. An Italian draw-bridge

OLINGO

- a. A small nocturnal mammal
- a. Sicilian slang
- a. A chat-up line

Answers on page 46

Uefa facing legal threat over clamp on imports

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE European Commission said yesterday that it would ask Uefa, the governing body of European football, to comply with the European Court of Justice ruling on transfers and restrictions on foreign players and would take "necessary measures" if Uefa did not do so.

"Nobody in the [European] Union (EU) is above the law," a Commission spokesman, Nikolaus van der Pae, said. He said the Commission had discussed a statement by Uefa that it was maintaining its rule that limits the number of players clubs can use in Uefa competitions to three foreigners and two "assimilated" players (that is, those who have lived in the country for

ruling immediately, but Uefa maintained it did not consider that the ruling on the number of non-national players applied to European club competitions.

However, Padraig Flynn, the EU Social Affairs Commissioner, said earlier this month: "It [the ruling] is quite clear, it's explicit and it's non-negotiable."

A Uefa spokesman said the Swiss-based organisation had received nothing yet from Brussels and could not comment on the threat of legal action, but he pointed out that the rule was originally the result of a "gentlemen's agreement" between Uefa and the Commission in 1991.

"It's worked well in recent years — there have been no problems," he said. "We just don't see the need to change it."

In England, the FA Carling Premiership has already said that clubs can field more than three players from other EU member states and some leading European clubs, eager to use superior foreign talent, have pressed for the rules to be changed immediately in accordance with the court ruling.

five years or played youth football there).

The Commission had decided to write to Uefa asking it to conform, van der Pae said. "If its reaction is negative, the Commission reserves the right to take future measures." Those could include taking Uefa to court or fining it for encouraging anti-competitive practices.

The warning would be included in a letter that the Commission is planning to send to Uefa in response to its request, made before the ruling in the case of Jean-Marc Bosman, for an exemption from EU rules prohibiting business agreements that restrict competition.

After a five-year legal battle by Bosman, a Belgian player, the European Court ruled last month that Uefa transfer fee rules and restrictions on the number of non-national players a team can field infringed European Union law.

The Commission had already told Uefa last month it had to scrap the "three plus two" rule and apply the Court



Cole celebrates scoring Manchester United's late winner in the FA Cup replay against Sunderland

Cole burns with ambition to reach Wembley

By DAVID MADDOCK

ANDY COLE, flushed with the success of a winning goal against Sunderland in the FA Cup, has set his sights firmly on Wembley. The Manchester United forward had good reason to rejoice in his injury-time header that decided the third-round replay on Tuesday night, not least because it relieved some of the pressure that has built up around him recently. His thoughts, though, when he reflected on the importance of the goal yesterday, were concentrated on the prospect of a final appearance.

Cole was forced to sit and watch in silence as his team makes last the FA Cup Final last year to Everton. He was cup-tied for that game after his £7 million move from Newcastle United, and vowed to return as a player — and a winner.

"It was a wonderful feeling to score against Sunderland," he said. "It was only my second goal in the FA Cup and I would really like to do well this year. I missed out on all the glory of Wembley last year and I would really like to go back there this time and lift that trophy."

It was an important victory over Sunderland, primarily because the competition pressure, which has been most realistic opportunity to win honours in what has been a faltering season. But Cole's contribution was significant, too.

He has been the subject of many a detailed dissection in recent weeks, and the prognosis has not been good. His critics, of whom there are many, are of the opinion that Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, pulled off something of a coup when he

allowed the player to leave for Manchester for what was then a British record fee. A year on, goals are few and far between, as are convincing performances.

Even the Old Trafford supporters have been less than supportive in recent weeks, but the goal should provide some temporary respite. Cole, a smile illuminating features usually cast in a brooding darkness, will be unconcerned even if it does not.

"I have learnt to live with the pressure," he said. "I have had it every day since I came here, and now I'm just not bothered about it at all. The fact is that I cost £7 million and if I don't score — and United don't win — then I get the blame."

The talk lately has been of the Old Trafford curse, a strange affliction that big-money forwards invariably suffer when they go to the place. It stops them scoring and quickly drives them in search of a cure elsewhere. Cole, however, has been able to shake off its effects so far, and he cites the support he has received as the cause.

His celebrations on Tuesday night may have contained a clue as to how the striker has kept his sanity, and his faith in an ability that has been strongly questioned. He ran to Brian Kidd, the assistant manager, and embraced him like a long-lost relative.

"The team, the manager and the supporters have been behind me through everything this season, and it has helped me immensely. Brian Kidd has worked with me and supported me so hard, and that has made me believe in myself. I just have to keep persevering."

Derby fervour turns to fury as fans miss out

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BRISTOL derbies, between City and Rovers, often generate generous outpourings of passion and pride but, over the years, few scenes can have been witnessed similar to those that took place at Ashton Gate on Tuesday night. Thousands of legitimate ticket-holders were refused entry, which led to angry exchanges between club officials and supporters. A full inquiry has been promised by Bristol City.

Problems arose when the game attracted far more spectators than anticipated, with the attendance swelling to 20,007 — just below its 20,832 capacity. City had sold tickets

in advance and also allowed payments at the turnstiles but those arriving with tickets found their path blocked by queues. As kick-off neared — after being delayed by 15 minutes — people became agitated at not being able to get in.

"We were taken completely by surprise by the fact that more than 20,000 wanted to get in," Scott Davidson, a City director, said. "This will never happen again." Bob Neale, another director, said: "We have already refunded many fans with tickets and are expecting more complaints." In a statement yesterday, the club said: "We can only offer our sincere apologies and a refund. With hindsight, it is clear the match should

have been all-ticket, but no one, the police, Rovers or ourselves, expected a capacity crowd. That was an error of judgement."

City claim that safety was never at risk in the first league derby between the sides in three years. Yet Iain Harkins, a steward at Ashton Gate for six years, said: "There were so many crushes there could easily have been fatalities. The club is lucky it didn't have a Hillsborough-type incident on its hands."

A female steward sustained a broken leg as gates were closed on her behind the Dolman Stand and one supporter called for the City directors to resign. Their job is to organise matches and if they can't do

that, heads should roll," Phil Ollershaw, 32, said.

"We were queuing up and suddenly the doors shut. I pushed through to see what was happening and I was told the ground was full. There was a massive surge forward and it could have been very dangerous. There were thousands of angry people and I blame an inept management. The hottest place to be yesterday was Elm Park. Reading, Manchester United's 2-1 victory at Sunderland earned them a fourth-round tie at the Berkshire club. Not surprisingly, its switchboard was jammed with callers requesting in-

formation on how to buy tickets. "It's bedlam," a club spokesman said.

Although Oxford United, from the Endleigh Insurance League second division, did well to register a 1-0 win over Millwall, from the first division, Ipswich Town provided the main surprise with their victory, after extra time, at Blackburn Rovers.

"This was the most satisfying moment of my career at Portman Road," George Burley, the Ipswich manager, said. "To go there with a plan, and see it work, was tremendous. It was a terrific display by the whole team and I'm particularly pleased for the fans." Burley won an FA Cup winner's medal when playing for Ipswich in 1978.

Weah accused of taking a dive to secure penalty

By OUR SPORTS STAFF



Weah: won penalty

ALAIN DA COSTA SOARES, the Gabon coach, accused George Weah, of Liberia, of unsporting behaviour in earning a penalty early in his team's 2-1 victory in the African Nations Cup in Durban yesterday.

Kelvin Sebe scored from the spot in the fourth minute after a foul by Pierre-Francois Aubame-Eyang, of Gabon, on Weah, but Soares saw no infringement on his player's part. "The early penalty was a major setback for us. It was clear Weah made a dive and was angling for the penalty."

However, Gamal El-Ghondour, the

Egyptian referee, was convinced Weah had been unfairly bundled to the ground and had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot.

This setback did not deter the Azingos who pressed the shaky Liberian defence with Jonas Opatanga and Guy-Roger Nzamba on the left, and Etienne Kassa-Ngoma, the captain, and Jean-Martin Mouloungui on the right, giving the Liberian central defenders, Jenkins Cooper and Hervy Beeto, a hard time.

Liberia scored again in the 54th minute when a Sebe dummy gave him the space to set up Joe Nagbe on the right. Nagbe crossed to Sarr, who

sidefotted past the goalkeeper, German Mendome. Gabon threw extra men into attack and were rewarded within five minutes when Nzeng, the defender, sent a 25-yard free kick past Tokpah to reduce the lead.

Earlier Mozambique and Tunisia drew 1-1 in their group D opening game in Port Elizabeth. Ghana led the group after defeating Ivory Coast 2-0 on Sunday. The top two teams advance to the quarter-finals following the three-match opening round.

In group C, however, only three teams were competing as Nigeria, the champions, are boycotting the tournament because they have a political

dispute with the host country, South Africa.

In Port Elizabeth, Rui Evora, the Mozambique goalkeeper, charged out to stop Kales, Kodibane, of Tunisia, breaking through in injury time and secured a 1-1 draw for his side.

Manuel Buacane had given Mozambique the lead in the fifth minute with a fine header, but Tunisia hit back with a goal from Hedi Ben Rekhsa in the 36th minute. Both sides missed chances to take the lead in the second half, with Belhassen Aloui, the Tunisia substitute, shooting wide and his goalkeeper, Chokri El Ouair, making two fine saves.

Saturday games back in favour

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

THE Northern Ireland delegation emerged from five hours of hard bargaining in Frankfurt delighted with its schedule for group nine of the 1998 World Cup qualifying series. Four of Northern Ireland's first five fixtures will be at home and four of their five matches at Windsor Park will be on Saturday afternoons.

"Getting off to a good start is of paramount importance. You don't want to get left behind early on," Jim Boyce, president of the Irish Football Association (IFA), said. "Hopefully, this schedule gives us a good chance of getting a few points before we embark on the tougher away matches."

Boyce, who was involved in negotiations with representatives of Germany, Portugal, Ukraine, Albania and Armenia, was accompanied by Brynne Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, and David Bowen, the IFA general secretary. "It was pretty tough going but we more or less got what we wanted," Boyce said. "We're very happy with the outcome."

It was Northern Ireland's home form that cost them a possible place in the European championship finals. They finished joint runners-up, on 17 points, with Ireland in the group six qualifying competition but lost three of their games in the Province. Yet they were unbeaten on their travels, a better record than most of the finalists.

Northern Ireland kick off against Ukraine on August 31 and Armenia on October 5, both in Belfast, before playing away to Germany on November 9. They then return home to meet Albania on December 14 and Portugal on March 29 next year. They conclude their programme with away matches in Albania and Portugal. When Ukraine arrive in August, it will be the first time

Windsor Park has staged a Saturday afternoon international fixture since the George Best era. "We'll cancel all the other fixtures in the Province that day," Boyce said. "It will give people plenty of time to get in from the country areas and plenty of time to get home again."

Shrewsbury's fourth-round FA Cup tie against Liverpool on January 27 will go ahead at the second division club's tiny Gay Meadow ground, despite police fears that ticketless Liverpool fans could create problems.

One of the biggest games in the club's history was expected to be switched to Anfield for safety reasons after talks with local police. The Shrewsbury ground has a crowd limit of about 8,500 and moving the tie to Anfield, capacity 44,000, would have netted the Endleigh Insurance League second division side an estimated £100,000.

But a proposed venue change failed to get the backing of the Football Association. "They told us that the use of Gay Meadow for future cup-ties would be in doubt as we could not put this in our own," the Shrewsbury chairman Ray Bailey, said.

The Birmingham manager Barry Fry, yesterday criticised his leading scorer, Jonathan Hunt, who has 12 goals, after the midfielder played was given a two-match ban for exceeding 21 disciplinary points. Hunt, who also plays under Fry at Barnet in Southend, would not be available for the fourth round of the FA Cup if Birmingham go through. "He has been booked seven times this season and four of them have been either for dissent or kicking the ball away. That drives me mad and he's been fined for each one," Fry said.

James takes smart step for Armani

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

DAVID JAMES is tall, lean and athletic — the perfect shape for a goalkeeper of FA Carling Premiership repute. He has played in every match for Liverpool this season, conceding only 21 goals in 22 League games, and cannot be far away from the thinking of Terry Venables, the England coach. James is elegant and handsome, too, according to those in the know, and thus he was strutting his stuff on the catwalk at the Milan fashion week yesterday.

It is well-known that professional footballers have much spare time on their hands, and that many indulge in a variety of pastimes in an attempt to supplement their £5,000-a-week pay-packets. But modelling? For Giorgio Armani, the world-renowned designer? And at one of the industry's showpiece occasions in front of the eagle-eyed glitterati? Apparently, yes, yes and — yes.

James is 25, 6ft 5in and a svelte 145lb when he was last weighed for reference-book purposes. That and his photogenic qualities and general deportment clearly captivated Armani himself, after he spotted James on the cover

of Arena, a menswear fashion magazine. "David is an extraordinary-looking man who came to my attention in two ways," Armani gushed. "Many of the people who collaborate with me in my design studio follow football closely and they were very enthusiastic about this important player for Liverpool. Then I saw his picture on the front of the magazine recently and I was convinced he would be a perfect image for us."

James was due to appear in the three Armani shows yesterday, although it was unclear how many "exits" he would make or by how much he would increase his bank account. "I don't know if he's had any training for the catwalk but we've just asked him to look as natural as possible," a spokesman said.

Even if James had fallen and made a fool of himself, he is still guaranteed at least one more Italian job. He has signed up to appear in advertising for the spring-summer 1996 campaign for Underwear. The reason, according to a Milan insider, is simple. "He's absolutely gorgeous," she said.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

GREAT BRITAIN IN RUSSIA, National indoor Athletics, Birmingham, January 17. Men: 60m: M. Rodriguez (Barcelona) 1.14; 100m: M. Rodriguez 20.00; 200m: S. Wainwright (Liverpool) 1.00; 400m: M. Rodriguez 1.00; 800m: M. Rodriguez 2.00; 1,600m: M. Rodriguez 4.00; 3,200m: M. Rodriguez 8.00; 6,400m: M. Rodriguez 16.00; 12,800m: M. Rodriguez 32.00; 25,600m: M. Rodriguez 64.00; 51,200m: M. Rodriguez 128.00; 102,400m: M. Rodriguez 256.00; 204,800m: M. Rodriguez 512.00; 409,600m: M. Rodriguez 1,024.00; 819,200m: M. Rodriguez 2,048.00; 1,638,400m: M. Rodriguez 4,096.00; 3,276,800m: M. Rodriguez 8,192.00; 6,553,600m: M. Rodriguez 16,384.00; 13,107,200m: M. Rodriguez 32,768.00; 26,214,400m: M. Rodriguez 65,536.00; 52,428,800m: M. Rodriguez 131,072.00; 104,857,600m: M. Rodriguez 262,144.00; 209,715,200m: M. Rodriguez 524,288.00; 419,430,400m: M. Rodriguez 1,048,576.00; 838,860,800m: M. Rodriguez 2,097,152.00; 1,677,721,600m: M. Rodriguez 4,194,304.00; 3,355,443,200m: M. Rodriguez 8,388,608.00; 6,710,886,400m: M. Rodriguez 16,777,216.00; 13,421,772,800m: M. Rodriguez 33,554,432.00; 26,843,545,600m: M. Rodriguez 67,108,864.00; 53,687,091,200m: M. Rodriguez 134,217,728.00; 107,374,182,400m: M. Rodriguez 268,435,456.00; 214,748,364,800m: M. Rodriguez 536,870,912.00; 429,496,729,600m: M. Rodriguez 1,073,741,824.00; 858,993,459,200m: M. Rodriguez 2,147,483,648.00; 1,717,986,918,400m: M. Rodriguez 4,294,967,296.00; 3,435,973,836,800m: M. Rodriguez 8,589,934,592.00; 6,871,947,673,600m: M. Rodriguez 17,179,869,184.00; 13,743,895,347,200m: M. Rodriguez 34,359,738,368.00; 27,487,790,694,400m: M. Rodriguez 68,719,476,736.00; 54,975,581,388,800m: M. Rodriguez 137,438,953,472.00; 109,951,162,777,600m: M. Rodriguez 274,877,906,944.00; 219,902,325,555,200m: M. Rodriguez 549,755,813,888.00; 439,804,651,110,400m: M. Rodriguez 1,099,511,627,776.00; 879,609,302,220,800m: M. Rodriguez 2,199,023,255,552.00; 1,759,218,604,441,600m: M. Rodriguez 4,398,046,511,104.00; 3,518,437,208,883,200m: M. Rodriguez 8,796,093,022,220.80; 7,036,874,417,766,400m: M. Rodriguez 17,592,186,044,441.60; 14,073,748,835,532,800m: M. Rodriguez 35,184,372,088,883.20; 28,147,497,671,065,600m: M. Rodriguez 70,368,744,177,766.40; 56,294,995,342,131,200m: M. Rodriguez 140,737,488,355,532.80; 112,589,990,684,262,400m: M. Rodriguez 281,474,976,711,065.60; 225,179,981,368,524,800m: M. Rodriguez 562,949,953,422,131.20; 450,359,962,737,049,600m: M. Rodriguez 1,125,899,906,844,262.40; 900,719,925,474,099,200m: M. Rodriguez 2,251,799,813,688,524.80; 1,801,439,850,948,198,400m: M. Rodriguez 4,503,599,627,377,049.60; 3,602,879,701,896,396,800m: M. Rodriguez 9,007,199,254,754,099.20; 7,205,759,403,792,793,600m: M. Rodriguez 18,014,398,509,508,198.40; 14,411,518,807,585,587,200m: M. Rodriguez 36,028,797,019,016,396.80; 28,823,037,615,171,173,400m: M. Rodriguez 72,057,594,038,032,793.60; 57,646,075,230,342,346,800m: M. Rodriguez 144,115,188,076,065,587.20; 115,292,150,460,684,693,600m: M. Rodriguez 288,230,376,152,131,173.40; 230,584,300,921,369,387,200m: M. Rodriguez 576,460,752,304,262,346.80; 461,168,601,842,738,774,400m: M. Rodriguez 1,152,921,504,608,524,693.60; 922,337,203,685,477,548,800m: M. Rodriguez 2,305,843,009,217,049,387.20; 1,844,674,407,370,955,097,600m: M. Rodriguez 4,611,686,018,434,098,774.40; 3,689,348,814,741,910,195,200m: M. Rodriguez 9,223,372,036,868,197,548.80; 7,378,697,629,483,820,390,400m: M. Rodriguez 18,446,744,073,736,395,097.60; 14,757,395,258,967,640,780,800m: M. Rodriguez 36,893,488,147,472,790,195.20; 29,514,790,517,935,281,561,600m: M. Rodriguez 73,786,976,294,945,582,390.40; 59,029,581,035,870,563,123,200m: M. Rodriguez 147,573,952,589,891,164,780.80; 118,059,162,071,741,126,246,400m: M. Rodriguez 295,147,905,179,782,329,561.60; 236,118,324,143,482,252,492,800m: M. Rodriguez 590,295,810,359,564,658,123.20; 472,236,648,286,964,505,305,600m: M. Rodriguez 1,180,591,620,719,129,316,246.40; 944,473,296,573,929,010,611,200m: M. Rodriguez 2,361,183,241,438,258,632,492.80; 1,888,946,593,147,858,021,222,400m: M. Rodriguez 4,722,366,482,876,517,265,985.60; 3,777,893,186,295,717,042,444,800m: M. Rodriguez 9,444,732,965,753,034,531,971.20; 7,555,786,372,591,434,084,889,600m: M. Rodriguez 18,889,465,931,506,069,063,942.40; 15,111,572,745,182,868,177,939,200m: M. Rodriguez 37,778,931,863,012,138,135,884.80; 30,223,145,490,365,736,355,779,400m: M. Rodriguez 75,557,863,726,024,276,271,769.60; 60,446,290,980,731,472,552,558,800m: M. Rodriguez 151,115,727,452,048,552,558.40; 120,892,581,961,462,945,105,117,600m: M. Rodriguez 302,231,454,904,097,105,117.20; 241,785,163,922,925,890,210,235,200m: M. Rodriguez 604,462,909,808,180,210,235.20; 483,570,327,845,851,780,420,470,400m: M. Rodriguez 1,208,925,817,616,360,420,470.40; 967,140,655,691,703,560,840,940,800m: M. Rodriguez 2,417,851,635,232,720,840,940.80; 1,934,281,311,383,407,120,168,168,168.00m: M. Rodriguez 4,835,703,270,465,360,168,168.00; 3,868,562,622,766,814,240,336,336,336.00m: M. Rodriguez 9,671,406,540,930,720,336,336.00; 7,737,125,245,533,628,480,672,672,672.00m: M. Rodriguez 19,342,813,081,861,440,672,672.00; 15,474,250,491,067,256,135,344,135,344.00m: M. Rodriguez 38,685,626,163,722,880,135,344.00; 30,948,500,982,133,452,270,688,270,688.00m: M. Rodriguez 77,371,252,327,445,760,270,688.00; 61,897,001,964,266,904,541,376,541,376.00m: M. Rodriguez 154,792,504,736,911,520,541,376.00; 123,794,003,928,533,808,108,282,852,852.00m: M. Rodriguez 309,585,009,473,823,040,108,282.00; 247,588,007,857,067,616,216,565,705,705.00m: M. Rodriguez 618,970,018,947,646,032,216,565.00; 495,176,015,714,135,232,433,131,131.00m: M. Rodriguez 1,237,940,037,829,292,064,433,131.00; 990,352,031,428,270,464,866,266,266.00m: M. Rodriguez 2,475,880,063,658,584,128,892,532.00; 1,980,704,063,658,584,128,892,532.00m: M. Rodriguez 4,951,760,127,317,168,257,764.00; 3,960,503,063,658,584,128,892,532.00m: M. Rodriguez 9,903,520,254,635,376,515,528.00; 7,923,624,063,658,584,128,892,532.00m: M. Rodriguez 19,807,040,509,371,744,103,756.00; 3,961,812,063,658,584,128,892,532.00m: M. Rodriguez 39,614,081,018,743,488,207,512.00; 7,923,624,063,658,584,128,892,532.00m: M. Rodriguez 79,232,162,037,486,976,415,024.00; 15,847,240,63,658,584,128,892,532.00m: M. Rodriguez 158,464,324,074,973,952,830,048.00; 31,694,481,267,317,947,864,160,096.00m: M. Rodriguez 316,928,648,149,945,895,720,180.00; 63,388,962,534,635,891,739,360,360.00m: M. Rodriguez 633,857,296,299,891,739,360.00; 126,777,925,069,271,783,478,720,720.00m: M. Rodriguez 1,267,714,592,599,783,478,720.00; 253,555,850,138,543,566,957,440,140.00m: M. Rodriguez 2,535,429,185,177,116,914,914.00; 507,111

ENGLISH INSURANCE LEAGUE, First division, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, 19th Dec. Third division: Stratford 1, Doncaster 2. 4-1. Leyton 0-0.

ISRAELI YOUTH CUP, LEAGUE: Premier division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1. Second division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1. Third division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1. Fourth division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1. Fifth division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1. Sixth division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1. Seventh division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1. Eighth division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1. Ninth division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1. Tenth division: Hapoel 1, Ashdod 1, Ashdod 0-1.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH, First division, 19th Dec. 1-1. 2-2. 3-3. 4-4. 5-5. 6-6. 7-7. 8-8. 9-9. 10-10. 11-11. 12-12. 13-13. 14-14. 15-15. 16-16. 17-17. 18-18. 19-19. 20-20. 21-21. 22-22. 23-23. 24-24. 25-25. 26-26. 27-27. 28-28. 29-29. 30-30. 31-31. 32-32. 33-33. 34-34. 35-35. 36-36. 37-37. 38-38. 39-39. 40-40. 41-41. 42-42. 43-43. 44-44. 45-45. 46-46. 47-47. 48-48. 49-49. 50-50. 51-51. 52-52. 53-53. 54-54. 55-55. 56-56. 57-57. 58-58. 59-59. 60-60. 61-61. 62-62. 63-63. 64-64. 65-65. 66-66. 67-67. 68-68. 69-69. 70-70. 71-71. 72-72. 73-73. 74-74. 75-75. 76-76. 77-77. 78-78. 79-79. 80-80. 81-81. 82-82. 83-83. 84-84. 85-85. 86-86. 87-87. 88-88. 89-89. 90-90. 91-91. 92-92. 93-93. 94-94. 95-95. 96-96. 97-97. 98-98. 99-99. 100-100. 101-101. 102-102. 103-103. 104-104. 105-105. 106-106. 107-107. 108-108. 109-109. 110-110. 111-111. 112-112. 113-113. 114-114. 115-115. 116-116. 117-117. 118-118. 119-119. 120-120. 121-121. 122-122. 123-123. 124-124. 125-125. 126-126. 127-127. 128-128. 129-129. 130-130. 131-131. 132-132. 133-133. 134-134. 135-135. 136-136. 137-137. 138-138. 139-139. 140-140. 141-141. 142-142. 143-143. 144-144. 145-145. 146-146. 147-147. 148-148. 149-149. 150-150. 151-151. 152-152. 153-153. 154-154. 155-155. 156-156. 157-157. 158-158. 159-159. 160-160. 161-161. 162-162. 163-163. 164-164. 165-165. 166-166. 167-167. 168-168. 169-169. 170-170. 171-171. 172-172. 173-173. 174-174. 175-175. 176-176. 177-177. 178-178. 179-179. 180-180. 181-181. 182-182. 183-183. 184-184. 185-185. 186-186. 187-187. 188-188. 189-189. 190-190. 191-191. 192-192. 193-193. 194-194. 195-195. 196-196. 197-197. 198-198. 199-199. 200-200. 201-201. 202-202. 203-203. 204-204. 205-205. 206-206. 207-207. 208-208. 209-209. 210-210. 211-211. 212-212. 213-213. 214-214. 215-215. 216-216. 217-217. 218-218. 219-219. 220-220. 221-221. 222-222. 223-223. 224-224. 225-225. 226-226. 227-227. 228-228. 229-229. 230-230. 231-231. 232-232. 233-233. 234-234. 235-235. 236-236. 237-237. 238-238. 239-239. 240-240. 241-241. 242-242. 243-243. 244-244. 245-245. 246-246. 247-247. 248-248. 249-249. 250-250. 251-251. 252-252. 253-253. 254-254. 255-255. 256-256. 257-257. 258-258. 259-259. 260-260. 261-261. 262-262. 263-263. 264-264. 265-265. 266-266. 267-267. 268-268. 269-269. 270-270. 271-271. 272-272. 273-273. 274-274. 275-275. 276-276. 277-277. 278-278. 279-279. 280-280. 281-281. 282-282. 283-283. 284-284. 285-285. 286-286. 287-287. 288-288. 289-289. 290-290. 291-291. 292-292. 293-293. 294-294. 295-295. 296-296. 297-297. 298-298. 299-299. 300-300. 301-301. 302-302. 303-303. 304-304. 305-305. 306-306. 307-307. 308-308. 309-309. 310-310. 311-311. 312-312. 313-313. 314-314. 315-315. 316-316. 317-317. 318-318. 319-319. 320-320. 321-321. 322-322. 323-323. 324-324. 325-325. 326-326. 327-327. 328-328. 329-329. 330-330. 331-331. 332-332. 333-333. 334-334. 335-335. 336-336. 337-337. 338-338. 339-339. 340-340. 341-341. 342-342. 343-343. 344-344. 345-345. 346-346. 347-347. 348-348. 349-349. 350-350. 351-351. 352-352. 353-353. 354-354. 355-355. 356-356. 357-357. 358-358. 359-359. 360-360. 361-361. 362-362. 363-363. 364-364. 365-365. 366-366. 367-367. 368-368. 369-369. 370-370. 371-371. 372-372. 373-373. 374-374. 375-375. 376-376. 377-377. 378-378. 379-379. 380-380. 381-381. 382-382. 383-383. 384-384. 385-385. 386-386. 387-387. 388-388. 389-389. 390-390. 391-391. 392-392. 393-393. 394-394. 395-395. 396-396. 397-397. 398-398. 399-399. 400-400. 401-401. 402-402. 403-403. 404-404. 405-405. 406-406. 407-407. 408-408. 409-409. 410-410. 411-411. 412-412. 413-413. 414-414. 415-415. 416-416. 417-417. 418-418. 419-419. 420-420. 421-421. 422-422. 423-423. 424-424. 425-425. 426-426. 427-427. 428-428. 429-429. 430-430. 431-431. 432-432. 433-433. 434-434. 435-435. 436-436. 437-437. 438-438. 439-439. 440-440. 441-441. 442-442. 443-443. 444-444. 445-445. 446-446. 447-447. 448-448. 449-449. 450-450. 451-451. 452-452. 453-453. 454-454. 455-455. 456-456. 457-457. 458-458. 459-459. 460-460. 461-461. 462-462. 463-463. 464-464. 465-465. 466-466. 467-467. 468-468. 469-469. 470-470. 471-471. 472-472. 473-473. 474-474. 475-475. 476-476. 477-477. 478-478. 479-479. 480-480. 481-481. 482-482. 483-483. 484-484. 485-485. 486-486. 487-487. 488-488. 489-489. 490-490. 491-491. 492-492. 493-493. 494-494. 495-495. 496-496. 497-497. 498-498. 499-499. 500-500. 501-501. 502-502. 503-503. 504-504. 505-505. 506-506. 507-507. 508-508. 509-509. 510-510. 511-511. 512-512. 513-513. 514-514. 515-515. 516-516. 517-517. 518-518. 519-519. 520-520. 521-521. 522-522. 523-523. 524-524. 525-525. 526-526. 527-527. 528-528. 529-529. 530-530. 531-531. 532-532. 533-533. 534-534. 535-535. 536-536. 537-537. 538-538. 539-539. 540-540. 541-541. 542-542. 543-543. 544-544. 545-545. 546-546. 547-547. 548-548. 549-549. 550-550. 551-551. 552-552. 553-553. 554-554. 555-555. 556-556. 557-557. 558-558. 559-559. 560-560. 561-561. 562-562. 563-563. 564-564. 565-565. 566-566. 567-567. 568-568. 569-569. 570-570. 571-571. 572-572. 573-573. 574-574. 575-575. 576-576. 577-577. 578-578. 579-579. 580-580. 581-581. 582-582. 583-583. 584-584. 585-585. 586-586. 587-587. 588-588. 589-589. 590-590. 591-591. 592-592. 593-593. 594-594. 595-595. 596-596. 597-597. 598-598. 599-599. 600-600. 601-601. 602-602. 603-603. 604-604. 605-605. 606-606. 607-607. 608-608. 609-609. 610-610. 611-611. 612-612. 613-613. 614-614. 615-615. 616-616. 617-617. 618-618. 619-619. 620-620. 621-621. 622-622. 623-623. 624-624. 625-625. 626-626. 627-627. 628-628. 629-629. 630-630. 631-631. 632-632. 633-633. 634-634. 635-635. 636-636. 637-637. 638-638. 639-639. 640-640. 641-641. 642-642. 643-643. 644-644. 645-645. 646-646. 647-647. 648-648. 649-649. 650-650. 651-651. 652-652. 653-653. 654-654. 655-655. 656-656. 657-657. 658-658. 659-659. 660-660. 661-661. 662-662. 663-663. 664-664. 665-665. 666-666. 667-667. 668-668. 669-669. 670-670. 671-671. 672-672. 673-673. 674-674. 675-675. 676-676. 677-677. 678-678. 679-679. 680-680. 681-681. 682-682. 683-683. 684-684. 685-685. 686-686. 687-687. 688-688. 689-689. 690-690. 691-691. 692-692. 693-693. 694-694. 695-695. 696-696. 697-697. 698-698. 699-699. 700-700. 701-701. 702-702. 703-703. 704-704. 705-705. 706-706. 707-707. 708-708. 709-709. 710-710. 711-711. 712-712. 713-713. 714-714. 715-715. 716-716. 717-717. 718-718. 719-719. 720-720. 721-721. 722-722. 723-723. 724-724. 725-725. 726-726. 727-727. 728-728.

the musical
log-book

Mind your body language in Hollywood

First there was *Hollywood Women*. Then there was *Hollywood Kids*. Now we have *Hollywood Pets* (ITV). What next, *Hollywood Pests*? Spot on, apparently — ITV does indeed plan to bring us *Hollywood Pets* later this year. Now there's a date for your diary.

Call me a cynic but as I settled back for yet another dose of high speed, three-second-and-cut television, the word "formula" sprang mysteriously to mind. Nothing as complex as our old friend *Fernat* you understand. No, the truly marvellous proof unearthed by David Green and his team at September Films is this: Hollywood nips just about any collective noun equals showtime, folks, and ITV will buy as much as he can make.

The question is, are we happy to watch as much as he can make? Despite my best high-minded intentions, the answer for the first

two-thirds of last night's opening instalment (improbably there are three more to come) is yes. What happened in the final third? We'll get to that later — you might still be eating your breakfast.

The format was utterly predictable (lots of Hollywood hunks talking about their favourite subjects — themselves) and so was the content of an episode entitled *Vanity and Vulgarly*. For while tinsel town's women worry about the two T's (tits and teeth, darling), its menfolk obsess over the two P's — pees and pates. Actually, there was a third P... but no, I still don't think we're quite ready for it.

What rescued the formula was the humour. Most of the subjects knew they were likely to be gently sniped at and if they didn't — well, Stephanie Beacham and Roseanne Barr were around to do a more brutal job.

And very good fun it all was, with the familiar and famous

being mixed in with a likeable bunch of unknown wannabes, variously captioned as actor/stripes, actor/film driver, and even, actor/world kick boxing champion. Collectively they talked us through their high maintenance lifestyles — the visits to the gym, the dentist (if you're worried about bad breath, check out the Halliwell) and the hairdresser. That, of course, is assuming you still have your own hair.

Unless you are Bruce Willis, being bald in Hollywood can seriously damage your wealth — toupees, wigs, weaves and implants, we saw them all. But, as Roseanne observed, there is a curious hierarchy to this hairy artifice. The more powerful you are, the more you can get away with. She had the pictures to prove it. As we moved on to plastic surgery (and learnt that one of the side-effects of male face-lifts is

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

having to shave behind your ears) I had a nasty feeling I knew where we were heading. Sure enough, part three was entirely devoted to the third P: the penis. Now, penis augmentation is a subject that has been extensively covered on Channel 4's late night shock show, and the later the better as far as I am concerned. It is a seriously horrid operation, with a yuk factor approaching infinity.

Far less forgivable, however, was the change of pace that accompanied the shift south. Suddenly the film slowed to a crawl, as an assortment of sad chaps held forth at disproportionate length about the unproven rights and painful wrongs of a particular surgeon's technique. The humour had gone, the energy had gone and, shortly afterwards, so had I.

Alternative therapies were offered as Under the Sun (BBC2) continued its stimulating run with *The Witching Tree*. Problems with polygamy? Then Mpanane is your man.

Mpanane is an *inyanga*, a South African witch doctor — part healer, part herbalist, part agony aunt — and the film revealed an unexpected line of common sense running through the rituals that surround his work.

Both equally? Mpanane consulted the bones, only to announce: "You must go home and settle the matter yourselves."

Understandably overwhelmed, the patient sprang his own surprise: "I don't have any money — not even for this session." Mpanane looked an unhappy *inyanga*, although he did cheer up later, when 170 workers from a sawmill turned up for help in sets.

For the first 20 minutes or so, there seemed to have been a big improvement in *Video Nation* (BBC2), the camcorder volunteers for which now range from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu to a homeless beggar. But as we progressed through their collective view of the alphabet of modern communities (A is for apathy, B for belonging) was clear we were not going to stop, as the title had suggested, at N is for Neighbours. Long before we finally got there, I knew exactly what Z stood for: zzzzz...

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (50050)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Coefax) (2906128)
9.10 Kilroy. Studio discussion (s) (2942789)
10.00 News (Coefax), regional news and weather (8749675) 10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6189012)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (48147)
12.00 News (Coefax), regional news and weather (822557) 12.05pm Pebble Mili with Ross King (s) (4568693) 12.50 Regional News and weather (13188418)
1.00 News (Coefax) and weather (81708)
1.30 Neighbours (Coefax) (s) (8422044)
1.50 The Flying Doctors. Australian medical drama. (Coefax) (s) (135418)
2.35 This is Your Life (s). (Coefax) (s) (4474321) 3.05 Timeskeepers. Quiz (s) (5630673)
3.30 The New York Bear Show (s) (751226)
3.35 The Muppet Files (s) (2928760)
3.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates (s). (Coefax) (s) (1804708) 4.10 Highlander. (Coefax) (s) (1213031) 4.35 The Really Wild Show. (Coefax) (s) (6944673)
5.00 Newsround. (Coefax) (431985) 5.10 The Demon Headmaster. The final episode. (Coefax) (s) (750058)
5.35 Neighbours (s). (Coefax) (s) (201876)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Jennie Bond. (Coefax) Weather (401)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (383)
7.00 Top of the Pops. (Coefax) (s) (7499)
7.30 EastEnders. (Coefax) (s) (805)
8.00 The Vet: A Bit of a Chance. Drama series about a Devon veterinary practice. (Coefax) (s) (537321)
8.50 Animal Hospital Heroes. Rolf Harris remembers some heartwarming stories from previous visits to the vets and pets of the Hampshire Hospital in London. (Coefax) (s) (595944)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Barker. (Coefax) Regional news and weather (962)
9.30 French and Saunders. Dawn and Jennifer with another collection of comedy sketches. Tonight they pay irreverent homage to the Italian film director Federico Fellini. With guest appearances by Kate Winslet, Sue Barker and Felicity Kendal. (Coefax) (s) (8525)
10.00 Inside Story: A Band Is Born. (Coefax) (s) (697079). WALES: 10.00 The State (5147) 10.30 Inside Story (43321) 11.20 Question Time (167673) 12.20am-1.50am Man on Fire (218787)
10.50 Question Time with David Dimbleby from Bristol. The panel includes Joan Ruddock, MP, Max Hastings and Elizabeth Meehan. (Coefax) (s) (57633)
11.50 FILM: Man on Fire (1987) starring Scott Glenn. A drama about a former CIA operative who takes on the job of bodyguard to a wealthy Italian couple and their 12-year-old child. When the kid is kidnapped he must use all his training to rescue the youngster. With Jade Malle, Joe Pasco, Brooke Adams and Jonathan Pryce. Directed by Eli Chazwan. (s) (251741) 1.20am Weather (8222221)

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347780) 3.55 News (Coefax) and weather (530333)
4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (296)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (708)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Coefax) (s) (795750) 5.40 Still in Business. (s) (381227) 5.55 My Village. Well-dressing in the Derbyshire village of Eym (568692)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (836925)
6.45 They Who Dare. Frenchman Alain Robert climbs skyscrapers (s) (263499)
7.00 Waiting for God (s). (Coefax) (s) (6741). WALES: 7.00 Pound For Pound (437). WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact: Midlands Report; NORTH: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: Kids on Loan; WEST, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30 Close Up

BBC2
6.00am Business and Work: A new dawn in Rawtenstall (72760) 6.30 No More Casualties (51692)
7.00 Breakfast News. (Coefax) (6279963)
7.15 Lassie (3393741) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7457295) 8.05 Blue Peter (s). (Coefax) (s) (6180012)
8.35 The Record (9681147) 9.00 For the Love of It (s) (6541857)
9.05 Seeing Through Science (4284012) 9.30 Lamepress (3338944) 9.45 Over the Moon (3338949) 10.00 Storyline (3188147) 10.25 Storyline (3188147) 10.45 The Experimenter (4394708) 11.05 Space Ark (4400215) 11.15 Health 3 (1378514) 11.35 Landmarks (2042434) 12.00 Pathways of Belief (3108300) 12.15pm Clemmie (4525569) 12.30 Working Lunch (77031) 1.00 Lisechou (3250254) 1.25 Technology (2806505) 1.40 Numberline (5424216)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (s) (61428708) 2.05 Puppypod Tales (s) (61427079)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5624295)
3.00 News (Coefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross. (Coefax) (s) (7347

THURSDAY JANUARY 18 1996

Cronje and Kallis usher South Africa to victory at Kingsmead and series triumph

Donald adds to England's one-day woes

FROM SIMON WILDE IN DURBAN

DURBAN (South Africa won toss): South Africa beat England by five wickets

AFTER all the brave talk of fightbacks, England's cricketers went very quietly last night. Outperformed with bat, ball and in the field, they were beaten with ease by South Africa in the fifth one-day international at Kingsmead and, by going 4-1 down, surrendered the seven-match series with two games to play.

It was England's first defeat in a one-day series since they were beaten 3-2 in the Caribbean two years ago. Michael Atherton's first full series as captain. Since then they have beaten New Zealand, South Africa and West Indies, although they failed to qualify for the World Series Cup finals in Australia last year.

South Africa's match-winners were, with the bat, Allan Donald and, with the ball, Hansie Cronje and Jacques Kallis, who broke their country's third-wicket partnership record in one-day internationals with a stand of 118.

Kallis played the innings that will, perhaps, be remembered longer, but it was Cronje who broke the shackles imposed by the England seamers after Cork had dismissed Kirsten and Hudson with his first nine balls.

Kallis scored a fine 67, his maiden half-century at international level, and revealed himself to be a player with both an excellent tempera-

ment and a wonderful range of strokes. He is the third player of outstanding promise to emerge for South Africa during England's tour, after two bowlers, Shaun Pollock and Paul Adams.

Kallis is 20, Pollock 22 and Adams 18. By way of contrast, the only players England can claim to have unearthed are Peter Martin, who is 27 and of less obvious pedigree, and Jack Russell, 32, who has re-emerged from the shadows as a one-day player. Yesterday Russell played his third valuable innings of the series, a sprightly 21 from 36 balls that helped pull round an England innings of 184 all out strewn with careless dismissals.



Thorpe: defiant

England finished the game as listlessly as they did the previous one at Centurion Park last Sunday, with Atherton rotating his bowlers in desperate search for a breakthrough while bowling to defensive fields. While this went on, the South Africa batsmen did much as they pleased.

Even so, it might have been a different outcome had England fielded as do South Africa, which is to say breath-takingly. They dropped Cronje three times and Kallis once, three of them the sort of sharp chances South Africa take in their sleep — one of which split the webbing on Stewart's left hand and required four stitches — and the fourth an absolute sitter. The culprit was DeFreitas and the recipient Cronje, who was on 29 at the time.

It was a battle fought out among the seamers, although England made a late throw of the dice with Hick's off spin. Having examined the pitch under heavily overcast skies, Atherton took a last-minute decision to leave out Illingworth in favour of DeFreitas.

South Africa recalled de Villiers, who showed no sign of rustiness after his recent injury, and McMillan, despite an announcement earlier in the week that he would not appear again in the series. Cullinan was again incapacitated by his calf strain.

As usual, the real difference between the two bowling sides was the destructive pace of Donald, whose spell of four wickets in 27 balls wrecked the promising start made by Atherton and Stewart, who put on 51 for the first wicket in 15 overs before both fell in Donald's second over. Donald soon added the scalps of Hick and Smith, after which it was always going to be an uphill fight for England.

Not for the first time in this series, Thorpe was left to supervise the later stages of England's innings. He began in typically pugnacious fashion, by pulling Donald for two

fours, and remained the dominant partner in stands of 54 in 14 overs with White and 32 in seven with Russell, but his dismissal for 63, his third half-century in four innings, started a collapse that showed the tail at its feeblest.

After Thorpe was out in the 44th over, only 20 runs were added and Cork, DeFreitas and Gough, who was out attempting the only shot he seems to know, the nurdled leg glance, all failed to hit out in the way late-order players must in one-day cricket.

The accuracy of Donald's supporting cast was an object lesson. They rarely strayed from the straight and narrow, so that when England's frustrated batsmen were driven to taking liberties, they often paid the price. Indeed, nine of England's wickets were bowled or caught behind and the tenth — the run-out of Russell — was also down to the accuracy of the bowler. Pollock kicking the ball with his right foot into the stumps.

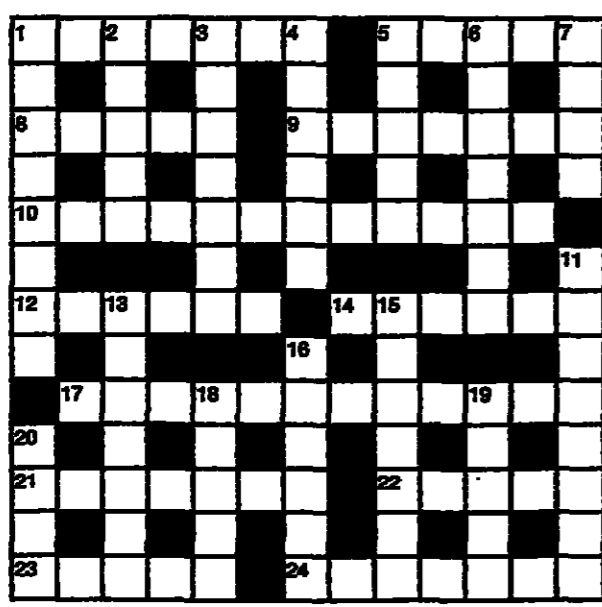
Draw in Hamilton, page 46



Donald is jubilant after bowling Stewart during the spell that destroyed the England batting yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 681 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Satan; an old match (7)
- 5 Solar System visitor, bright tail (5)
- 8 Biographer of Socrates (5)
- 9 Criminal (5,2)
- 10 Lack of practice (12)
- 12 Be living example (of) (6)
- 14 Sun god; moon mission (6)
- 17 Politician with no local roots (6-6)
- 21 Coming (unpleasantly) close (7)
- 22 Beat edible seeds (5)
- 23 Take a dip (5)
- 24 General pardon (7)

DOWN

- 1 Unevenly balanced (8)
- 2 Ardently desire (5)
- 3 Old mugger (7)
- 4 Prize (6)
- 5 Identical genetic copy (5)
- 6 Amazing, inexplicable (7)
- 7 Offensive vehicle; liquid container (4)
- 11 Abstemious state (8)
- 13 Show (truth of) (4,3)
- 15 Enclosure for baby and toys (7)
- 16 Mark of disgrace (6)
- 18 High self-regard (5)
- 19 Heraldic red (5)
- 20 (Large) solid block (4)

PRIZES

THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network. THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO No 680

ACROSS: 6 Squeeze 7 April 9 Taper 10 Colleen 11 Crystal ball 14 In cold blood 17 Tumbler 19 Abide 21 Duels 22 Flat out DOWN: 1 Quip 2 Berasal 3 Height 4 Pail 5 Free hand 6 Site 8 Lonely 11 Cumber 12 Look away 13 Gifted 15 Benefit 16 Pest 18 Last 20 Icon

FA happy with fixture balance for World Cup qualifying task

By JOHN GOODBODY

ENGLAND, notoriously ill-at-ease in international fixtures soon after the start of the domestic season, will have to play their first game on September 1 this year when trying to qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals. They will begin their campaign by visiting Moldova for the first time.

The initial home game will be against Poland, at Wembley on October 9, and the last match will be against Italy, in Rome on October 11, 1997. Terry Venables, who will be handing over as England coach after the European championships in June, and Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, spent four hours at a meeting in Warsaw yesterday reaching agreement with representatives of Italy, Poland, Moldova and Georgia. Only the winners of the group are certain of a place in the finals in France, in which 32 nations will compete.

"Even if you picked out eight perfect solutions, someone could find holes in it because it is so difficult to negotiate the ideal strategy," Venables said.

England will play four of their qualifying games at weekends, which is a change in the usual pattern. "I think it will help the clubs a great deal because they will now get their players back for a week before they have to play again," Venables said.

David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said: "Our priority going into these negotiations was to deliver a balanced programme of fixtures, balanced in alternating home and away games, balanced in giving time between fixtures and balanced in build-

ENGLAND
1996
Sat Sep 1: Moldova (a)
Wed Oct 9: Poland (h)
Sat Nov 9: Georgia (a)
1997
Wed Feb 12: Italy (h)
Wed Apr 30: Georgia (h)
Sat May 31: Poland (a)
Wed Sep 10: Moldova (h)
Sat Oct 11: Italy (a)

SCOTLAND
1996
Sat Aug 31: Austria (a)
Sat Oct 5: Latvia (a)
Wed Oct 9: Estonia (a)
Sun Nov 10: Sweden (h)
1997
Sat Mar 29: Estonia (h)
Wed Apr 2: Austria (h)
Wed Apr 30: Sweden (a)
Sun June 2: Belorussia (a)
Sat Sep 6: Belorussia (h)
Sat Oct 11: Latvia (h)

ing momentum and spreading the games.

"We also wanted to avoid the worst of the weather in our opponents' countries. Some of our rivals had the same priorities and Italy have a similar start to us — away to Moldova and a similar alternation of fixtures. However, the reality is that we have achieved our main aim."

After meeting Moldova, England will play Poland,

month before the difficult away fixture in Poland.

At the draw in Paris last month, the European countries were split into nine groups for the qualifying tournament. The nine winners and the best runner-up qualify automatically for the finals. The other eight runners-up will be paired for the play-offs with only the winners going through.

Scotland, who are in a six-nation group with Austria, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden and Belorussia, have avoided playing any ties before the European championship finals in England this summer.

Instead, they will start on August 31, in Vienna, where they defeated Austria in a friendly two years ago. The Scots have a tradition of winning their opening match while trying to qualify for the World Cup. They will then play an away double-header, against Latvia on October 5 and against Estonia on October 9.

Scotland's first home game will be against Sweden, the probable group favourites, on November 10. This is the first of three successive home games. Estonia will visit Hampden on March 29, 1997 and Austria on Wednesday, April 2. Both visiting countries will have just come out of winter breaks.

The Scots, who were represented at their fixtures meeting in Vienna yesterday by Craig Brown, the team manager, and Jim Farry, the SFA's chief executive, will visit Stockholm on Wednesday, April 30, followed by a trip to Belorussia on Sunday, June 8. Their final home matches are against Belorussia and Latvia in September and October.

Dumitrescu agrees to sign for West Ham

ILIE DUMITRESCU will end his unhappy spell at Tottenham Hotspur by joining their London neighbours, West Ham United, today in a deal worth £1.5 million.

After signing their second foreign international in a fortnight, however, West Ham will have to wait for the Romania World Cup forward to be given a new British work permit, which could take up to two weeks.

Slaven Bilic, the Croatia centre back who joined West Ham from Karlsruhe for a club record £1.65 million ear-

lier this month, is also awaiting a work permit, applied for ten days ago.

"Ilie has to reapply after changing clubs but we are hopeful it won't take more than a fortnight," Peter Storrle, the West Ham managing director, said. "The fee has been agreed and so have his personal terms. Now it is just a question of completing the medical examination."

Mark Walters, 32, the former England winger, has joined Southampton after being given a free transfer by Liverpool.

South Africa won toss

ENGLAND
*M A Atherton c Richardson b Donald 17
A J Stewart b Donald 51
R A Smith c Richardson b Donald 8
G A Hick c Richardson b Donald 6
G P Thorpe b Matthews 63
C White b Pollock 21
R C Russell run out 21
D G Cork b Matthews 1
P A J DeFreitas b Pollock 3
D Gough b de Villiers 1
P J Martin not out 1
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 6) 11
Total (48.5 overs) 164

FALL OF WICKETS

1-51, 2-62, 3-61, 4-78, 5-132, 6-164, 7-170, 8-177, 9-178.
BOWLING: Pollock 10-1-31-2; Matthews 10-1-37-2; de Villiers 9.5-0-25-1; Donald 10-0-41-4; McMillan 8-0-25-0; Cronje 2-0-8-0.

RESULTS SO FAR

Jan 8: Cape Town: South Africa won by six runs
Jan 11: Bloemfontein: England won by five wickets
Jan 12: Johannesburg: South Africa won by three wickets
Jan 14: Pretoria: South Africa won by seven wickets
Jan 17: Durban: South Africa won by five wickets
Jan 18: Port Elizabeth: South Africa won by five wickets

Jermyn Street quality at affordable prices

You do not have to pay Jermyn Street prices for a superbly finished shirt. By dealing direct, we avoid London's expensive West End overheads and pass the benefit on to you. Yet we forfeit none of the quality.

The finest British fabrics
Our cotton shirts are made from pure, two-fold cotton poplin, the shirt fabric chosen by the world's most famous shirtmakers. Its rich lustre and silken feel make it cool and comfortable to wear all year round yet this quality of cotton poplin stands up to years of use.

Wide range of clothing
Our free colour brochure illustrates our wide range of clothing including shirts, trousers, nightwear and knitwear.

Choice of up to seven sleeve lengths
By offering a choice of up to 7 different sleeve lengths we ensure your shirts fit you perfectly. We combine this with generous cut, long tails and superb finishing to bring you a British shirt which will rival the finest made-to-measure shirt you can buy.

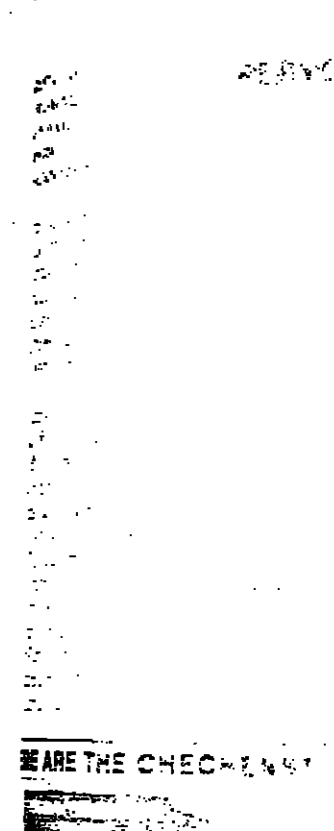
Embroidered initials - the ultimate distinction
Your own initials embroidered on your shirt give it that ultimate distinctive touch. This and our 24 hour despatch are both part of our commitment to service.

Value for money
Every item in our catalogue represents excellent value for money.

JAMES MEADE LIMITED
To: James Meade Limited, FREEPOST (SN 1676), Andover, Hampshire SP10 3BR. Or telephone 01264 333222 (24 hours). Fax 01264 363200. Please send me your FREE full colour brochure.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

If you do not wish to receive direct mail from other carefully selected companies, please let us know.



سكزا من الأصل

سكنا من الامل

Russians launch onslaught on rebels after declaring there is no hope for captives



A Grad rocket is fired by Russian forces yesterday towards the village of Pervomaiskoye as they kept up the military pressure on the Chechen rebel hostage-takers

Rockets rain on hostage village

FROM CARLOTTA GALL
IN PERVOMAISKOYE
THOMAS DE WAAL
IN MOSCOW
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Russian forces set out to level the village of Pervomaiskoye yesterday with a blizzard of rockets, saying there was "little hope" for any hostages after three days of bloody fighting with Chechen rebels.

In blowing snow on the steps around the ruined village, hundreds of weary federal troops pulled back and the Russians unleashed volley after volley of powerful Grad rockets. The cluster of small buildings came under rocket attack from helicopter gunships and was struck by rounds of artillery shells. Heavy machinegun fire in the late afternoon signalled con-

PERVOMAISKOYE ATTACK

tinued Chechen resistance. "We are pulling the troops out," said the commander of the Alpha special forces unit, wearing the distinctive green helmet fitted with a two-way radio and mouthpiece.

"Twice SOBR went in and twice they withdrew," he said, speaking of the Interior Ministry's rapid reaction unit, which lead the attempt to overrun the village. "They had heavy machineguns everywhere," he said of the Chechens, explaining why Russian forces failed to hold their positions.

Others described the Chechens using an intricate system of trenches for protection, along which they moved their heavy machineguns. "It was tough," said another special

forces officer. "We took losses." The officer said that there were still a few hostages alive of the 70 or so remaining in the village. He saw two dead. "There are some. They are sitting in cellars in holes they have dug themselves."

His men, their faces grubby under their helmets, their cheeks speckled with red marks from firing their rifles, climbed on to waiting buses. "We are all getting out and then we are going to screw them with the Grads," said one of the commanders.

Reporters were expelled by Russian military authorities from Pervomaiskoye and neighbouring villages yesterday. The region, in the republic of Dagestan, is just across the border from Chechnia.

The Russians began storming the village on Monday, breaking a five-day standoff and refusing the Chechen demands for safe passage to their homeland. At the time, authorities said they resorted to force because the gunmen were killing hostages — an allegation denied by separatist leaders in Chechnia.

Earlier yesterday, Russian officials again claimed that they escalated the conflict because hostages were being killed. Major-General Aleksandr Mikhailov, a spokesman for the Russian intelligence service, said the gunmen planned to kill the captives and try to escape.

"Because the situation is becoming more complicated, we have decided to conclude the operation," he said. Asked about the hostages, he said: "We have little hope for them."

On the road leading to Pervomaiskoye, he said laconically that there were "no hostages" left in Pervomaiskoye and the military had decided to "conclude" the operation by force. "We're no longer talking about a hostage-freeing operation," he said.

The Russians said that 41 of an estimated 116 hostages had escaped the battle unhurt. They admitted having 18 soldiers killed and 60 wounded, but the real figure may be much higher.

President Yeltsin has been under intense pressure to end the crisis decisively, but the political initiative has been all on the side of his opposition. Duma deputies yesterday lambasted Mr Yeltsin for botching his whole policy on Chechnia. "Neither the people, nor the generals, nor

the soldiers are responsible for this," said Ramazan Abdulatipov, a deputy from Dagestan. "The politicians are."

A statement adopted by an overwhelming majority of deputies condemned the Chechens for "using extreme forms of terrorist acts", but called on the Government "not to permit unjustified actions, which lead to the deaths of wholly innocent people".

Gennadi Seleznev, the Communist candidate for Speaker, was elected with 231 out of a possible 450 votes at the third attempt. His job carries no great constitutional powers, but it will give the Communists immense leverage over the new parliament.

Russian Public Television, the main state network, canceled all entertainment programming last night because of the fighting.

Removal of 'last reformer' hits \$9bn IMF deal

ECONOMY

By Thomas de Waal

A VISIT to Moscow by an International Monetary Fund delegation was in confusion yesterday as negotiations to sign a \$9 billion loan package coincided with the resignation of the last man to symbolise radical reform in the Russian Government.

The enforced departure of Anatoli Chubais, sole surviving Minister from President Yeltsin's reforming team of 1992, has sent Western financial institutions and embassies in Moscow into shock. Shares on the emerging stock market lost 7 per cent to 10 per cent of their value on the news. As First Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy, he was seen as the patron of Western investment.

"Chubais made an amazing contribution to the progress of the Russian economy, both by pushing through the largest privatisation in any post-Communist country and by stabilising the inflation rate," said Richard Layard, of the London School of Economics, who advised the Russian Government in 1992 and was in Moscow as Mr Chubais was resigning. "He will be very difficult to replace."

Mr Chubais's removal is a clear sop to voters for the Communist Party, which topped the poll in last month's elections. One of the 1992 reform team, he has long been a hate-figure for the parliamentary opposition. Yesterday he said "the President takes decisions not because of macroeconomic results, but because of the mood the electorate". The economy has shown signs of



Chubais's departure cut share prices

Centuries of cloak-and-dagger struggle scar turbulent region

By Michael Binyon
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

CAUCASUS HISTORY

EVEN in ancient times, the Black Sea was regarded as dangerous and hostile. It was known as the Pontus Axius — the inhospitable sea — because of its remoteness from the Graeco-Roman world and its violent storms which blew up unexpectedly and wrecked many ancient ships.

The sea was, from ancient times, a vital trading route, and Greek colonies were established along the northern

shores: indeed, as it became better known, the name changed to Euxinus — the opposite of its earlier appellation.

For hundreds of years, the mountainous and fertile lands around the sea saw a constant swirl of war, emigration and conquest, as invaders from the east and south reached the edge of Europe. But for 70 years, after 1917, all trade across the sea virtually ceased: the northern littoral was sealed behind the Soviet frontier while Turkey, which controls the vital Bosphorus exit, became a staunch member of the Western Alliance.

After the collapse of communism, trade resumed at a redoubled rate. Russians poured across into Turkey to buy consumer goods by the caseful and take them home on overcrowded ferries, at great profit. The scale of this unofficial "suitcase trade" is now so great that Turkey estimates it was worth about £4.5 billion last year — making Russia Turkey's second-largest trading partner. In 1995, an estimated one million Russians visited Turkey — as traders or tourists enjoying the resorts of the northern coast.

The Black Sea is now the centre of a new regional trading group, underpinned by Turkey, which brings together Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, the Transcaucasus, Albania, Romania, Greece and Bulgaria to the advantage of this new co-operation bloc that cuts across old alliances.

Throughout history, however, the Black Sea has been a strategic prize, vital to the interests of nations at war. The Bosphorus, no more than 750 yards wide at its narrowest, is by far the most vital waterway, and the cause of countless wars and diplomatic

tussles between Turkey and Russia. Its use is now strictly regulated by the 1936 Montreux Convention, but throughout the Soviet era Moscow was constantly testing the will of the Turks to enforce the accord.

The initial determination of the hijackers to sail to the Bosphorus and blow up the ferry there was a quick way of focusing world attention on the Chechen grievances by causing maximum damage and disruption. The tanker traffic through the waterway has now reached almost saturation point and accidents and collisions are an increasing risk. An explosion in the heart of Istanbul would not only block vital traffic but could kill hundreds along the populated banks, or set off disastrous fires. The first priority for the Turkish Government must therefore be to prevent the ferry reaching the Bosphorus.

The Chechens have been resisting Russian rule for some 200 years, attempting in vain to protect their independence in the swirl of battle between the Russians and the Turks. Although only half the size of Switzerland, their homeland's strategic location has made it an almost permanent battleground; in the Sec-

ond World War, the Chechens were accused of aiding German invaders trying to secure the Caucasus oil reserves, and in 1944 Stalin deported the entire population, and the neighbouring Ingush people, to Central Asia. Some 200,000 died during the mass exodus; the survivors were allowed back only in 1957.

Today's strategic importance lies in the main oil pipeline that runs close to Grozny: the Russians are bidding to carry huge oil exports from the Caspian, and are determined to safeguard the pipeline route.

In their fight with the Russians, the Chechens and other turbulent Caucasian groups have looked to the West, especially to Britain. They appealed to Queen Victoria for help, and the Russo-Turkish wars preoccupied Palmerston and the British Government.

In 1840s, the Russians began to suspect that British agents were operating among the Circassians, supplying them with arms and advice. Indeed, there was one Englishman who was actively helping them: James Longworth, a special correspondent for *The Times*, which supported the Circassian cause, spent months with the Mujahidin, not only reporting the fighting but organising resistance at the same time as Imam Shamil, the great guerrilla hero, was stirring revolt across the mountains in Dagestan.

Shamil, under the banner of muridism, a brand of Sufi mysticism, spent more than 20 years in warfare with the Russians, taking advantage of the Crimean war and plotting with the allies. As Peter Hopkirk, the author of *The Great Game*, makes clear, the cloak-and-dagger struggle in the Caucasus was for years intimately linked to the nautical battle between the British and the Russians for control of Central Asia. Terrorism, then as now, played a key role.



Shamil: waged war on Russians for 20 years

Rights group set to reject Moscow again

By Michael Binyon

THE Council of Europe is likely again to reject Russia's application for membership because of the fighting in Chechnia. The 38-member body, considered the yardstick and guarantor of democratic standards in Europe, had postponed accession because of fighting in the breakaway Russian republic last year.

The council, under whose aegis the European Court of Human Rights hears cases of human rights violations, will meet next Thursday in its Strasbourg headquarters to consider Moscow's long-

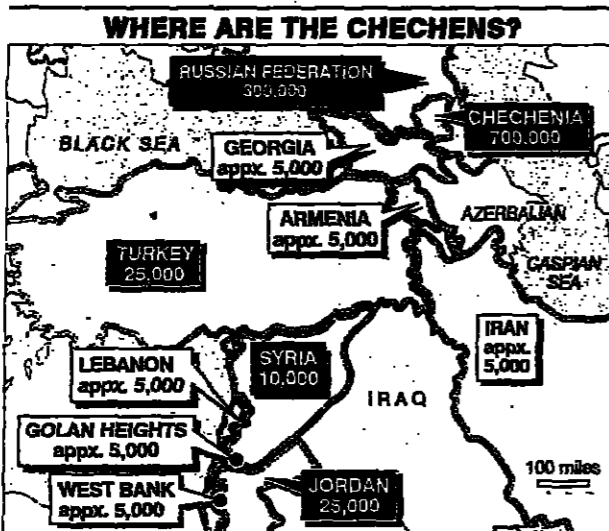
STRASBOURG

standing application. One council official said yesterday that the renewed fighting would inevitably influence the decision. Daniel Tarschys, the Swedish secretary-general, arrives in Moscow today. He will be accompanied by a representative of Denmark, which now holds the chairmanship of the council.

President Yeltsin has pressed hard for full membership of the council, and has expressed anger that other former communist countries have been admitted

while it has had only special guest status since its original application in May 1992. Moscow sees membership as proof that the West has fully accepted Russia as a democratic partner, and is increasingly furious at being kept in the waiting room.

On December 20 the political committee of the council's parliamentary assembly voted in favour of Russian accession. But the entire assembly needs to ratify the vote. In 1994, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the right-wing Liberal Democratic Party, caused outrage by his anti-Semitic outburst during a visit to Strasbourg.



Since their defeat in the middle of the last century the Chechens have been driven from their homeland

Magnet Half Price KITCHEN & BEDROOM SALE NOW ON



For your nearest showroom or a free catalogue - call free on

0800 555 825

OPENING TIMES: Normal opening times are Monday-Saturday 9.00-5.00. Selected branches open until 8.00 on Tuesday and 10.00-1.00 on Sunday. Check each branch for details.

*Half Price Sale applies to kitchen and bedroom cabinets. *When you spend £3,500 or more excluding installation. Installation applies to goods purchased from Magnet and reconstruction of appliances to existing services. Ask staff for details.

Magnet
Food for thought

Cut 300% off
THE COST OF YOUR HOME & CONTENTS INSURANCE

It's true! If you are paying £750 or more to insure your home and possessions, we can save you 30% on premiums.

MORE COVER FOR LESS
We offer the widest cover for the lowest premiums in the UK including free accidental damage and worldwide cover for contents and valuables.

Call Robyn Harris direct on
0171 824 8224
9am - 6pm, Monday to Friday

Home Legacy
INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED
BACKED BY THE U.K.'S
LEADING INSURERS

Ministers accused of corruption quit Rao Cabinet

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

THREE Cabinet ministers and the leader of India's main opposition party resigned last night as police moved to prosecute them in a £12 million bribery scandal.

The action against seven politicians, including a former Deputy Prime Minister, has stunned the political establishment in Delhi. Those who resigned last night were Madhav Rao Scindia, the Minister for Human Resource Development, and Vidya Charan Shukla, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, according to local news agencies.

Mr Scindia and Mr Shukla were two of the three ministers against whom federal police on Tuesday had requested permission to begin prosecutions in connection with the scandal. Balram Jakhar, the Agriculture Minister, had resigned earlier in the day.

The resignation of Lal K. Advani, leader of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), as an MP to put pressure on the named ministers to quit clearly had the desired effect. He said he would not contest the general election expected in about three months unless he had been cleared of the charges. The BJP has seized on allegations of corruption in P. V. Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress party as a key plank in its campaign for the polls.

The Central Bureau of Investigation said he and the other accused were involved in a 650 million rupee bribe scandal. The bureau operates under the direct authority of the Prime Minister, giving him a powerful tool to investigate his political enemies. It is inconceivable that the bureau would have acted without consulting him.

The *Indian Express* reported yesterday that Mr Rao had "pulled off a coup of sorts with the CBI filing a charge sheet against his political opponents". Mr Rao was asked if Congress would be tainted by the scandal. "It will tarnish the image of all those parties involved," the Prime Minister said.

Devi Lal, the former Deputy Prime Minister, who is one of those charged, said: "Charges were framed, keeping in mind the main challengers to the Prime Minister's chair."

The allegations stem from public interest litigation filed by an investigative journalist alleging illegal payment of foreign funds, or *hawala*, to public servants from 1988 to 1991.

The bureau said the politicians were charged with "abetment to corruption", which meant accepting illegal gifts or bribes. About 15 leading politicians and civil servants have been named in a petition before the Supreme Court. The accused say that the charges have been brought as a pre-election ploy.

Dipankar Gupta, the Solicitor-General, told a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court: "Investigations against the remaining politicians, bureaucrats and others is continuing and further action is expected to be taken shortly."

The allegations relate to foreign currency transactions involving overseas firms that won large government contracts. The Supreme Court in 1993 ordered the bureau to pursue investigations into the case after journalists filed a public interest petition saying that the inquiry had been halted because it involved prominent people.

The court, in upholding the petition, ordered that progress in the case should be reported every month to the Chief Justice.

Mr Advani led a protest march by supporters of his Hindu right-wing party from the parliament building in Delhi yesterday.

"The BJP is the principal challenger in the coming election," he said. "These charges have been filed on the eve of the election. It is a cooked-up case, a frame-up."

Advani says the case has been cooked up



Advani: says the case has been cooked up

Aids campaign move

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

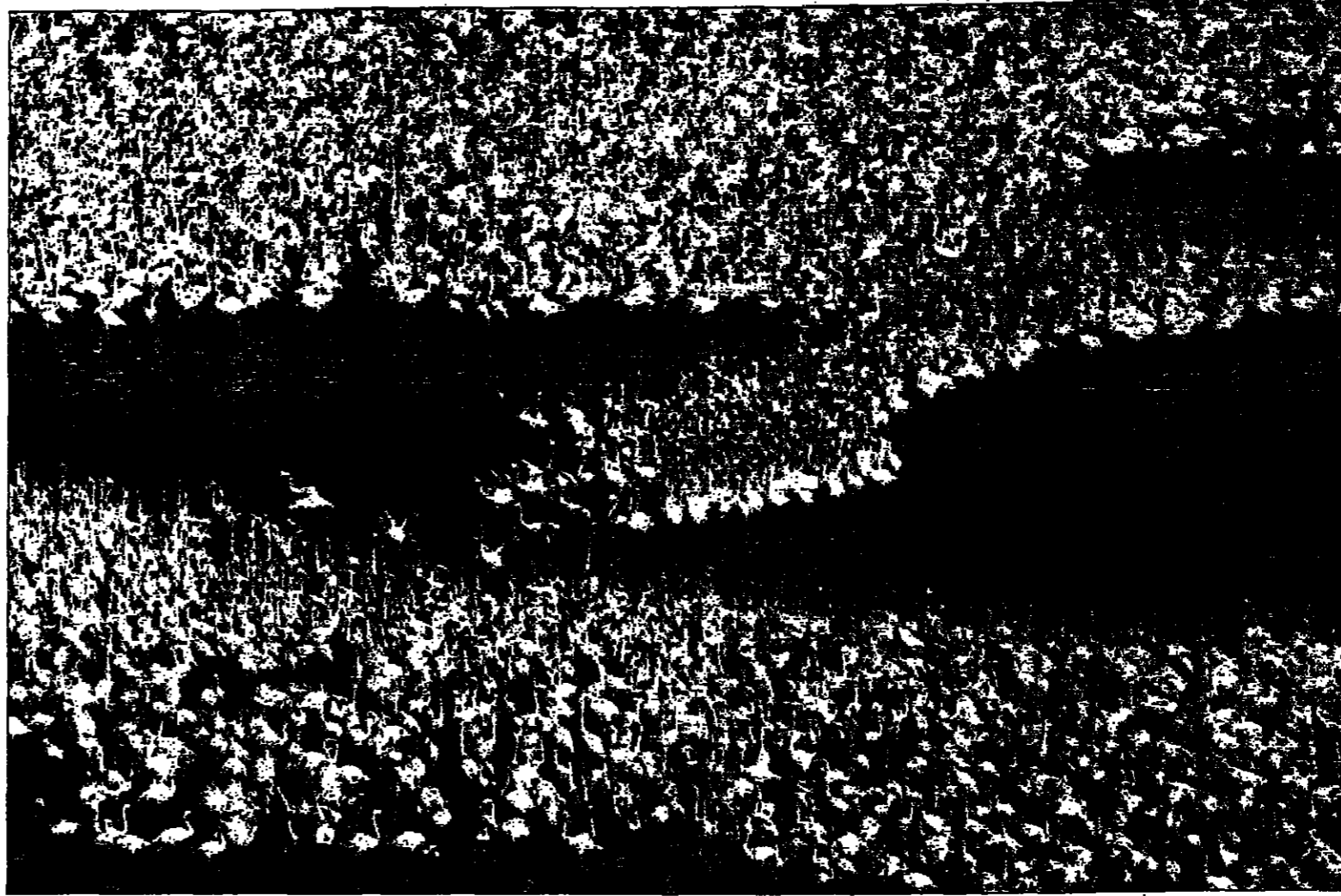
INDIA has set up a national Aids committee to co-ordinate an eradication campaign against the spread of HIV.

The first official attempt to tackle growing infection rates has meant sidestepping some taboos: there is now official admission that homosexuality and prostitution are widespread and that India is becoming the epicentre of the world Aids crisis.

With 65,000 prostitutes in red-light areas in Bombay, for example, and an estimated 90 per cent not insisting on their clients using condoms, India is heading for an Aids epidemic worse than Africa's. The Indian Health Organisation says that there will be 20 million to 50 million HIV-

positive people in four years. Dr I. S. Gilada, the secretary-general of the organisation, said an estimated 85 per cent of transmissions of HIV were through heterosexual contact. Homosexuals accounted for 3 per cent, 5 per cent came from transfusions of infected blood and most of the rest from intravenous drug abuse.

He added that the stigma associated with extramarital sex in India prevented people from having blood tests until the infection was advanced. In 1986, the Government broadcast foreign-made Aids warnings, but these were considered too explicit and withdrawn. Since then, there have been no public service messages.



Flamingo flocks like this are disappearing at an alarming rate from Kenya's Rift Valley, raising fears that pollution could be threatening the birds' survival — and tourist income (Sam Kiley writes).

Most badly hit is Lake Nakuru. One of the wonders of the natural world, the rose-coloured carpet of lesser flamingos feeding there has

Mystery of missing flamingos

been reduced to a tea towel. A census last week showed numbers had fallen from 1.9 million to 30,000. People in the area blame a drastic drop in the lake's water level and sewage and industrial pollution. Tourist lodges in Lake Nakuru National Park have

laid off workers because of a 40 per cent fall in visitors to see the birds feeding. "There is no conclusive evidence yet about what has happened to the chemistry of the [highly alkaline] lakes," said Oliver Nasirwa from the National Museum of Ke-

nya's department of ornithology. Lakes Bogoria and Elementita, far from large towns, have also suffered a drop in flamingo numbers of up to 80 per cent.

This weekend there will be a census at Lake Magadi, near the Tanzanian border. Mr Nasirwa said: "We simply don't know where they have gone."

Portugal saves ice age engravings

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN PORTO

PORTUGAL has "permanently postponed" a half-built £300 million dam that would have destroyed the world's largest site of ice age engravings.

The engravings were discovered in a remote valley just over a year ago and archaeologists already believe the area, in the northeast near Foz Côa, may unlock secrets not only about what Stone Age man did, but what he thought.

At the launch in Porto of a 600-page book on the engravings, Manuel Maria Carrilho, the Culture Minister in the three-month-old Socialist Government, thanked *The Times* for leading the international campaign to save the thousands of engravings from

the hydroelectric scheme. He added that the area will be a national park.

Senhor Carrilho accused the previous Government of being arrogant about the controversy, saying: "There is no doubt that if the SDP [Social Democratic Party] had won the elections, they would have continued the dam ... the country was divided fifty-fifty over the engravings because there was much local newspaper speculation that supported the SDP and questioned the authenticity of the engravings. But international experts [consulted by *The Times*] had weight and public opinion shifted in our favour."

"Now we will create a park as part of a regional development plan. It will have a cultural centre, youth hostel and young people will be trained as guides. We will continue studying the engravings and protect them. They are our history, our heritage and our roots. We must preserve our patrimony."

It is understood unofficially that the Government will eventually force the state electricity company to abandon the dam project. Antonio Guterres, the Prime Minister, wants to protect the environment and rethink a massive construction programme that has been transforming Portugal, not always for the better, since the country joined the

European Union in 1986. João Zilhão, 39, who is Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology at Lisbon University, will co-ordinate the park project. He has a budget of about £1 million and expects up to a thousand visitors a day from this summer.

He said: "What is unique is that the state of the territory has been essentially unchanged since palaeolithic times. One can see how people used the landscape. Like the Aborigines in Australia, they did not build monuments but turned the whole landscape into a monument. Côa is the only place in the world where we can see this."

Iraqi offer surprises oil traders

New York: Iraq offered yesterday to renew talks with the United Nations on selling limited amounts of oil to buy food for its suffering population (James Bone writes).

The move by Baghdad threw the oil market into confusion and prompted speculation that President Saddam Hussein's regime was running out of cash.

But it was unclear whether Iraq would agree to the "oil-for-food" scheme spelt out by the Security Council. The resolution permits Iraq to sell \$1 billion (£649 million) worth of oil every three months provided most of the crude is shipped by pipeline across Turkey, and some proceeds go towards helping the Kurds.

Alan Bond heads for fraud trial

Perth: Alan Bond, once one of Australia's richest men, has been ordered to stand trial in March for what prosecutors claim is the country's biggest ever corporate fraud case. Mr Bond and co-accused Peter Mitchell, an executive from his now defunct Bond Corporation, have pleaded innocent. The two men are accused of conspiring to defraud another company, Bell Resources Ltd, of \$AUS1 billion (about £500 million). (AP)

HIV woman may bid for Congress

Washington: Judith Billings, 56, the schools superintendent in Washington State who became HIV-positive more than a decade ago while trying to become pregnant by using donor sperm, may run for Congress this year. The liberal Democrat, who will decide by March whether to challenge the sitting Republican, said: "We need grown-ups in Congress."

Chun tries to overturn law

Seoul: Chun Doo Hwan, the former South Korean President on trial for plotting a coup 16 years ago, began a battle to nullify the law, adopted last month, that excluded presidential terms from the 15-year statute of limitations. He called it retroactive and thus unconstitutional. (AP)

Hubble captures death of a star

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A STAR in its death throes has been photographed by the Hubble space telescope, providing a foretaste of the Sun's fate. The image of planetary nebula NGC 7027 was presented to an American Astronomical Society meeting in San Antonio, Texas, this week, showing a huge gas cloud blown off around a star as it reaches the end of its life and dies to form a white dwarf.

NGC 7027 is about 3,000 light years away in the direction of the constellation Cygnus. Once it was a star about the same size as the Sun, but when it ran out of hydrogen to burn it began burning helium



Violent end: the demise of Nebula NGC 7027

and expanding to form a red giant 50 times larger than its original size. When helium burning stopped, the star contracted, blowing off the outer layers to form a series of concentric layers. The extremely hot core was then exposed, cooling to form a white dwarf. "When we saw

the photograph we were astounded by the exquisite wealth of detail," said Dr Howard Bond of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. The Sun of our solar system has five billion years to go before it begins to turn into something like NGC 7027.

'Cosmo' succumbs to appeal of younger woman editor

FROM QUENTIN LEITS IN NEW YORK

HELEN GURLEY BROWN, the pioneering women's advocate and author, is to step down as editor of the American *Cosmopolitan* after 30 years.

The departure of Mrs Gurley Brown, 73, from the magazine through which she transformed the image of young women was presented as a gracious withdrawal. However, sources suggested that the circumstances of her move were not so benign. She was said to be finding it hard to work for a new boss — a woman.

Under the Gurley Brown editorship, "Cosmo" not only became the most successful women's magazine, but also vividly cast aside the moral lodges of the 1950s. Mrs Gurley Brown, glamorous and zestful, urged women to enjoy themselves and to display every tactic bestowed by their gender.

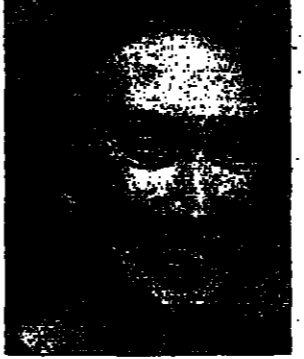
Not for her the man-hating, plain-faced dourness of certain feminists. Her 1962 bestseller *Sex and the Single*

Girl, based on her experience in 17 secretarial jobs, became a guidebook for the 1960s. In recent months *Cosmopolitan*, which is published in 27 countries under separate editors, has lost sales. Circulation dropped from three million to 2.6 million, and advertising revenue declined at least 8 per cent in the past year.

Hearst Magazines, which publishes *Cosmopolitan*, recently appointed a new president, Cathleen Black, who is expected to make changes to improve the company's performance. Reports suggested that she and Mrs Gurley Brown had their differences.

Competition from other women's magazines has increased, with many rivals using the Gurley Brown formula of sex, fashion and tips on how to keep your man. Mrs Gurley Brown is well qualified on that point, having been married to the same husband for 37 years.

The next editor of the American *Cosmopolitan* was announced as Bonnie Fuller, 39, editor of the American *Marie Claire*. Hearst Magazines said that the two women would work alongside each other for 18 months, with Mrs Gurley Brown training Fuller. One commentator said that the time lag gave Mrs Gurley Brown "enough rope to hang her successor", but other sources wonder how long the older woman will be able to endure the arrangement, and expect her to leave early.



Gurley Brown: pioneer of 1960s sexuality

ORANGE PHONES NOW COST LESS AT ESCOM

MOTOROLA mr1

- Popular flip design
- Up to 11 hours standby; 60 minutes talktime
- 99 name and number directory
- Desktop charger included

SAVE £50

£49.99 inc VAT

PLUS FREE UCI 26 CINEMAS

To receive your free pass to a year's unlimited movies at UCI cinemas, just ask in-store for full details. Offer ends 29th February 1996.

25% OFF ALL ORANGE ACCESSORIES WITH ANY PHONE

ORANGE ALSO OFFER YOU

- One second billing = 3-year warranty
- 12 Months Free Insurance
- Over 85% population coverage

easyware ES.COM

OVER 200 STORES NATIONWIDE FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE **0990 100888**

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.30am - 6.00pm
SATURDAY 10.00am - 5.00pm
SUNDAY 10.00am - 4.00pm
OFFICE WORLD OPENING HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.00am - 6.00pm
SATURDAY 10.00am - 5.00pm
SUNDAY 10.00am - 4.00pm

Prices and details are correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability and specification changes without notice. Credit subject to status. Without quotation available from First Retail Finance Ltd., PO Box 207, Chislehurst, Kent, SE26 4AG. £1-400. All products may not be available in all stores.

150 من الأول

Elizabeth's story



■ Today we continue our exclusive serialisation of *Elizabeth*, with an insight into the way in which the turbulent marriages of Charles and Andrew brought the Queen to the very brink of despair

'The Queen did not like Diana much'

DIANA AND SARAH: RELATIONSHIPS ON THE ROCKS

Elizabeth's indulgence of her daughters-in-law, the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York, was a worry to the Royal Household.

Whenever they wanted anything, Diana and Sarah would simply go to her over the heads of the Household and wheedle: "Oh, Ma'am, please, just this once..." the Household hate me," and so on. If approached from the other side, Elizabeth would say: "I can't interfere in my children's lives."

Although aware of the rumours about Sarah's behaviour with the Texan, Steven Wyatt (which her husband Prince Andrew steadfastly refused to believe), Elizabeth did not, apparently, know of the pact which both her daughters-in-law had made to separate from their husbands, according to Sarah's father, Major Ronald Ferguson, who told his mistress, Lesley Player about it in the spring of 1991. But at Sandringham, that Christmas, Andrew and Sarah told her of their decision to separate on the grounds of incompatibility.

Calm but openly "disappointed", Elizabeth asked them to wait six months before taking an irrevocable decision. Privately, however, she was stunned. "I can't understand my children," she told a friend. "She [Sarah] didn't even try to be a naval wife..."

For Elizabeth, the period she had spent in Malta as a young naval wife had been one of the happiest experiences of her life. Although there were other aspects of the failure of the marriage which, sadly, she did comprehend, her daughter-in-law's attitude was simply alien to her. Her eyes were beginning to be opened as far as the Duchess of York was concerned.

"Fergie isn't as nice as you think she is," a royal relation said. Sarah wanted sex, money, fun and excitement and she was prepared to sacrifice everything in order to get them. Incredibly, this woman was capable of self-delusion to the extent that she told her father later: "I'm 34, nearly 35, and I haven't lived my life at all..."

Even as Elizabeth delivered her Christmas 1991 broadcast she knew that her family life was crumbling around her, although she was not fully aware of the extent of the dissolution.

One phrase of that broadcast, intended as an affirmation of her continuing determination to go on serving the nation after 40 years on the Throne, was to come back to haunt her: "With your prayers and your help, and the love and support of my family, I shall try and help you in the years to come." (This was interpreted by various sections of the press as a slap in the face for Charles, sending a public signal that she did not intend to abdicate in his favour. It was no such thing: Elizabeth never had any intention of abdicating and never will.)

There had already been one marital split in the family when, in 1989, Anne had separated from Mark Phillips: there had been a certain amount of scandal, first concerning one of Anne's detectives, then when letters written to her by one of the Palace eunuchs, her future husband, Commander Tim Laurence,

were stolen and taken to a tabloid newspaper. Meanwhile, Mark Phillips had his own problems with allegations of affairs and a love-child. But Anne's popularity as one of the hardest-working members of the Royal Family (particularly for the Save the Children Fund) had seen her through. Mark Phillips behaved with dignity; the split had been amicable and the marriage was to be legally dissolved in April. Now Elizabeth knew there was to be a second marriage failure.

The publication of Andrew Morton's book *Diana: Her*

which had made them rich and celebrated. Elizabeth went on as usual, publicly serene but privately both furious and deeply troubled.

The traditional ceremony for the celebration of her official birthday, Trooping the Colour, went ahead as if nothing had happened, with the Princess of Wales part of the family party on the Palace balcony for the RAF fly-past. Privately, however, both Elizabeth and Philip, who had been at pains not to take sides, rallied to Charles, and Philip wrote him a "long and sym-

pathetic letter" praising his "saint-like fortitude". At Royal Ascot the following week, Philip for the first time showed hostility towards Diana, refusing either to look at her or speak to her. In private, Elizabeth and her son discussed for the first time whether he should take the initiative and separate from his wife. He consulted Lord Goodman, a celebrated lawyer and "fixer", about the implication of such a move, but for the moment did nothing.

At Ascot the disgraced Sarah took her daughters to wave to their grandmother as the royal procession moved down the course before the races. Elizabeth waved but inwardly she must have felt despairing at yet another public manifestation of what the press now liked to call her "dysfunctional" family (on the following race day, Andrew loyally joined his wife and daughters on the rails).

The royal show went on as if nothing had happened, but behind the scenes the atmosphere could have been cut with a knife. Guests at lunch noted that Elizabeth, unsurprisingly, seemed to be "in a pretty bad temper". There was an awkward atmosphere and before lunch the Queen stood alone with a semicircle of guests around her, none of whom were brought up to talk to her. With the exception of Blair Stewart Wilson, the Master of the Household, royal staff made no attempt to put the guests at their ease.

At the end of the month the Waleses attended a dinner to celebrate the Queen's fortieth anniversary at which five British Prime Ministers were present. In August, after a brief, disastrous attempt at a family holiday on the Greek millionaire John Latsis's yacht, they joined the family at Balmoral. In the early days, Elizabeth had done little to make her daughter-in-law feel at home. Diana, she quickly realised, was not her type of girl. She was turning out to be emphatically not the country lover Charles had thought she was. She was interested in clothes, pop music, dancing and shopping. Horses and dogs, hunting, shooting and fishing, the

royal pastimes, bored her. "The Queen didn't really like Diana very much," an aide said. Later, when the Princess's behaviour became eccentric to the point of rudeness, Elizabeth simply did not understand her.

Although a kind person, she is not an imaginative one. Since Buckingham Palace had never seemed intimidating to her, she assumed wrongly that Diana would adapt to its atmosphere. She was unused to close contact with girls of Diana's age and had little idea of how they might react to these unusual surroundings.

Although the grim facts of the marriage were already widely known or guessed at, the Prime Minister's announcement to the Commons in December 1992 of their separation, which was carried on all the television networks, was still profoundly shocking. John Major took pains to emphasise that, in his view, "the decision to separate has no constitutional implications". The implications of this statement brought a collective gasp from MPs, and no wonder. It was not merely papering over the cracks but wallpapering them with fluffy flock.

The idea that the Princess of Wales, living apart from her husband and at daggers drawn with him, might be crowned Queen Consort struck most people as absurd. The bald statement that the Prince of Wales's succession as head of the Church of England was also unaffected, although strictly constitutionally correct, also required some swallowing and it was not long before leading clerics came out publicly to say so.

Unfortunately for the

Queen, within weeks of the announcement, the leaking of a taped conversation labelled, inevitably, "Camillagate", made it quite clear that Diana's fears about Camilla being her husband's mistress were completely justified. While to the sophisticated, Charles's dirty talk about living inside his lover's trousers or being a Tampax appeared pathetic and puerile, the backbone of middle Britain was shaken to the core.

It was having its effect on the senior members of the family. Even Elizabeth, who invited Diana to Sandring-



Public smiles: Elizabeth with Charles and Diana — but her son's new fiancée never felt accepted by the Palace

ham for Christmas 1993, was seen to be "fuming" when the photographers massed to take pictures of Diana and packed up as soon as they had done so, ignoring the rest of the family. Although normally uninterested in publicity, she now took their attitude as a slight.

Inside the house the atmosphere was tense and quarrelsome. At tea over Victorian tables loaded with delicious cakes and scones, there were family spats. Charles, the proud father, boasted how William had shot 20 pheasants. "That's rubbish," shouted Andrew. "I know it was only 15." Philip, who in the wake of the Waleses' separation had written his son some tough and unpalatable letters, for once leapt to Charles's defence: "Andrew, why do you always have to be so tiresome that year had been a low point for Elizabeth. For a person who so rarely revealed her feelings, she made it clear at small private dinner parties how depressed she was by the family situation and its repercussions."

Edited extracts from Elizabeth, A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen, to be published by William Heinemann on January 24, £20.

© Sarah Bradford 1996

Book offer

Copies of *Elizabeth* can be bought by readers of *The Times* at a special price of £15 each (post and package free) from Reed Book Services, PO Box 5, Rushden, Northants NN10 6XU 01933 414000. Cross cheques and make payable to Reed Books Services Ltd, with name and full address on the back, quoting reference KJ28. Allow up to 28 days for delivery from January 24.



Renewing your home insurance in January and February?

If you're 50 or over, just see how much you can save with Saga - call us NOW!

You will know how expensive home insurance can be - thankfully, if you're aged 50 or over you can benefit from Saga Homecare - a superior household insurance that's only available to mature, responsible people like you.

Because of this, Saga Homecare can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions.

The Saga Price Promise

If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out Saga Homecare, we'll refund you the difference.

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd, FREEPOST 731
Middelburg Square, Folkestone CT20 1AZ

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to these companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE



- Exclusively for people aged 50 or over.
- Cover is comprehensive and low cost.
- Free pen with your quotation.
- Low Excesses.

Call us today!

For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on Saga Homecare.

0800 414 525
ext. 2166

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm. Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Miners' compensation may lead to more claims

White with anger

THE miners have won their case to receive compensation for white finger disease, also known as Raynaud's phenomenon of occupational origin or vibration induced white fingers (VWF).

Although occupational VWF was first described in 1911, when it was noticed that American workers who used pneumatic chisels for stone cutting developed arterial spasm in their fingers, its relevance to mining was only realised comparatively lately. In Britain in the 1930s people who used pounding machinery in boot and shoe factories often developed Raynaud's. Initially, all those who suffered had been using tools which were power hammers. Later, those like the miners, who used cutting equipment which had a revolving action, also became victims.

Any machine which causes a rapid vibration may be a cause, since arteries can respond adversely to a wide range of vibrations.

As well as shoe workers, stone cutters, people using polishing machinery in the aerospace industry and chainsaw operators, a host of other workers in smaller trades must have also developed VWF and can expect to suffer dead, painful, useless fingers if they go out into the cold or if they become stressed. The miners may have set a precedent for a great many claims.

However, there are more cases of Raynaud's in cigarette smokers than in miners and it is found more often in women



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

than in men. Dr Carol Black, a consultant in rheumatology at the Royal Free Hospital, London, whose great interest is Raynaud's disease, says that there may be ten million people in the United Kingdom who show some of its features. Sufferers will notice that their fingers turn white or blue and red. The change in colour, and with it a loss of sensation, tingling and pain, can be triggered by exposure to the cold or emotional stress.

The symptoms are the result of spasm in the small arteries in the fingers and occasionally arteries in other extremities.

The ear, nose and tongue may show similar changes. Repeated attacks may leave the fingers looking shiny, smooth and claw-like.

The cause of this primary Raynaud's is unknown and as many as 90 per cent of sufferers are female, usually young women. In secondary Raynaud's the use of vibrating machinery is only one of the many causes. One of the most important is the rheumatic disorder systemic sclerosis, afflicting 10 per cent of all sufferers with progressive loss of tissue in their fingers, coupled with tightening of the skin in the fingers and on the face. Arterial changes in the vessels leading to the lungs, oesophagus, intestinal tract, kidney and heart can also occur.

In other instances Raynaud's can be secondary to the use of drugs including beta-blockers, nicotine and oral contraceptives, and to a wide variety of other diseases.

Facing a shock in the mirror

ONE OF my patients is a personable but tough Scottish international salesman. He attributes his success to his open face and ready smile. One night last autumn he went to bed suffering from a slight cold. Next morning he was horrified to find that half his face was paralysed: one of his eyes would not close properly and his enriching smile was replaced by a top-sided grimace and drooling mouth. He had Bell's palsy, paralysis of the muscles supplied by the facial nerve.

Although the onset of the palsy is often associated with a cough, cold or minor infection, the root cause is unknown, but the possibility that it follows a viral infection has always been considered likely. Now researchers in Japan suggest that the cause is the herpes simplex virus, which is responsible for the common cold sore and genital herpes. They report in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* finding evidence of herpetic infection in 11 out of 14 cases of Bell's palsy. It is suggested that treatment should include acyclovir, an anti-viral agent, together with heavy doses of steroids.

Alarms about heavy metals

IN Stradbroke, Suffolk, there is a worry about lead in the glazing on porcelain beer mugs; in America anxiety still centres on mercury in tooth fillings. Whatever its nature, concern about heavy-metal poisoning has been a source of alarm for centuries. Dental surgeons deny that the standard amalgam filling, a mercury alloy, can result in mercury poisoning, and scientific evidence supports them. But in America demand for gold fillings rose by almost 20 per cent last year.

Popular mythology suggests that chronic mercury poisoning from tooth fillings can undermine a person's sex life, ruin their gums and cause loss of memory. In the past 30 years there have been major outbreaks of poisoning from eating fish caught in mercury-polluted seas or bread made from seeds sprayed with mercury dressings.

Chronic mercury poisoning causes a staggering walk, a tremor, difficulty in speaking, sore gums and mouth, and a loss of intellect. The term "mad as a hatter" comes from the insanity that used to afflict hat-makers who used mercury in preparing felt.

Florence Nightingale deserves our apology

A missed diagnosis can be serious. Dr James Le Fanu on the illnesses that often get overlooked

IT IS A great misfortune to be afflicted by some malady for which neither doctors nor their panoply of sophisticated tests can find a cause. Sooner or later it will be made clear that, as they can find nothing wrong, the symptoms must be psychosomatic or a manifestation of hypochondriasis. But what if this verdict is wrong? The consequences are well illustrated by two cases, the first of which, Florence Nightingale, is remembered as one of history's more famous invalids.

The reputation of this remarkable woman has always suffered from the charge that her personal life was the antithesis of the virtues she promoted in public. Her aims may have been loving and humanitarian, her administrative gifts exceptional, her writings a masterpiece of lucidity and common sense, but her personal relationships were cold and her attitude to others tyrannical.

These personality traits became particularly marked after her return from the Crimea at the age of 37, when she became a chronic invalid, rarely rising from her bed. It has been alleged by her biographers that this was a sophisticated form of malingering, a means by which she could better manipulate those around her.

"Her indeterminate illness did not give her doctors much to work on," observes the historian, Professor F. B. Smith. "It remains indisputable that whenever Miss Nightingale announced herself to be ill, she was busy."

History, it seems, owes Miss Nightingale an apology. Her illness was genuine, the cause of not only great physical



After her return from Crimea, Florence Nightingale became a chronic invalid. But her illness was genuine

distress but also of a profound melancholia which, together, more than explain the change in her personality.

The vital clue, argues Dr David Young, formerly principal scientist at the Wellcome Foundation, lies in the severe feverish illness to which she succumbed while in the Crimea and which left her emaciated, pale and extremely weak.

Though labelled Crimean Fever at the time, there is little doubt that this was brucellosis, caused by milk contaminated with the brucella bacterium which, though rare in Britain, remains an occupational hazard, especially for farmers.

After the acute illness, brucella persists in the body. According to Dr Young, the description of Miss Nightingale's invalidity on her return to England is consistent with the chronic form of the infection, punctuated by relapses every few years. Brucella attacks the nerves and joints, especially of the lower back, leading to severe and at times incapacitating pain. It can also cause less specific symptoms which may be misinterpreted as psychosomatic, including depression, loss of appetite, palpitations and nervous tremors.

'The vital clue lies in her severe Crimean fever'

Following a relapse in 1861, Miss Nightingale was bed-ridden for the next six years with spinal pain so severe she was unable to change position, and which was eventually only relieved by opium injections.

Finally, around the age of 60, the illness burnt itself out. "Gone was the cold, obsessed tyrant who rejected as inadequate the devoted services of her closest allies," Dr Young observes. "As her character blossomed in its benevolence, this emaciated woman became a dignified, stout old lady with a large good-humoured face."

Nowadays, brucellosis can be diagnosed with antibody tests and cured with antibiotics, but sometimes the symptoms of a chronic infection can be dismissed as hypochondriasis.

As the editor of the *Finnish Medical Journal*, Dr Ilkka Vartiavaara had excellent medical connections but they proved to be of little help when, in 1987, he developed a range of puzzling symptoms. It started with pains in the joints, followed by a permanent sensation of cold, then an alteration in the sensation of the skin and deteriorating eyesight. Possibilities such as

multiple sclerosis and brain cancer were considered, along with other illnesses, but all scans and tests proved negative.

He recalls in *The Lancet*: "I knew I was seriously ill, but transferring this belief to my colleagues was not easy. I felt myself gradually becoming a 'problem patient'. The dissatisfaction of my doctors could be clearly read between the lines, in their words and the frowns on their faces. Eventually, the hospital said there was nothing more they could do."

But his luck had not completely run out. Dr Vartiavaara mentioned to an American correspondent how, just before the start of his illness, he had been bitten by a bed-bug while attending an international conference in Vancouver. She immediately suggested Lyme disease —

caused by the tick-borne bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. "Soon afterwards I found myself in hospital. I still felt awful, but also good because I knew why I was so ill."

Lyme disease is curable with high doses of antibiotics injected directly into the vein, but for Dr Vartiavaara the delay in his diagnosis proved to have been too long as the bacterium had already caused irreparable damage.

Lyme disease and brucellosis have much in common. After the acute phase, they tend to attack the muscles and nerves causing pain which, though only too obvious to the sufferer, may be difficult for others to interpret. They also cause irritability and depression which can convince doctors that the problem lies in the mind rather than the body. But the consequences of failing to make the correct diagnosis can be devastating — as these two examples show.

Höfels
ODOURLESS
ONE-A-DAY
GARLIC
WITH PARSLEY

Starve a fever, feed a cold - traditional advice for colds and flu. But that's not all. Traditionally, high strength garlic has also been prized for its ability to help relieve the symptoms of the common cold. And there's no more effective, convenient, and socially discreet way to benefit from the goodness of garlic than Höfels one-a-day. Available with or without added parsley, Höfels one-a-day can usually be found right under your nose since it's available from stockists everywhere.

Natural Healthcare

Always read the label

Höfels
ORIGINAL
ONE-A-DAY
GARLIC

OLIVER SACKS

'Astounding tales from the unexplored jungles of the human mind'

Independent
OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK
HCAD00

Back Pain? Painful Sleep?

Your sleeping posture is more important than you think.

Tension free sleep is vital to your health.

The Tempur Mattress and Pillow mould to the body, resulting in optimum distribution of pressure.

SLEEP ON IT FOR 30 NIGHTS WITH COMPLETE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE... you can only win...

The Tempur Mattress and Pillow are recommended by more than 15,000 medical professionals.

Ask your Physiotherapist, Chiropractor or Osteopath.

Please send me details on the Tempur Mattress & Pillow

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Send coupon to: Tempur - Pillow (UK) Ltd FREEPOST (UK 4051) Cranford, Middlesex UB8 3PH or call 0800 616 135

THE M

Back Pain? Painful Sleep?

Your sleeping posture is more important than you think.

Tension free sleep is vital to your health.

The Tempur Mattress and Pillow mould to the body, resulting in optimum distribution of pressure.

SLEEP ON IT FOR 30 NIGHTS WITH COMPLETE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE... you can only win...

The Tempur Mattress and Pillow are recommended by more than 15,000 medical professionals.

Ask your Physiotherapist, Chiropractor or Osteopath.

Please send me details on the Tempur Mattress & Pillow

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Send coupon to: Tempur - Pillow (UK) Ltd FREEPOST (UK 4051) Cranford, Middlesex UB8 3PH or call 0800 616 135

Tom Rhodes in Washington on the latest political storm

A slip which could cost Dole the presidency

THE BLIZZARDS that have swathed Washington in 3ft of snow claimed their most political victim this week when Elizabeth Dole, wife of the leading Republican presidential candidate, slipped on ice and fractured her wrist while out walking the dog.

For Mrs Dole, who has briefly left the presidency of the American Red Cross to pursue her husband's final attempt at the White House, the injury has proved a minor irritation that should heal in time for the campaigning ahead.

A simultaneous political storm, emerging from a long career that has left a trail of policy decisions and private financial transactions, is unlikely to blow away with such ease.

Already *The New Yorker* magazine has turned its spotlight on her past, suggesting she had benefited financially from special treatment because of the political activities of her husband, Senator Robert Dole.

Elizabeth Dole at 59 is fast becoming the most compelling feature of her spouse's campaign, the Republican answer to Hillary Clinton.

Before the fracture, Mrs Dole had started a tour of the country. Not, as in Mrs Clinton's case, to promote a soul-searching book on children and consciously defile an image of hardened harrier, but rather to insist on a new role for America's First Lady.

At each stop, after a reading of the impressive credentials of the only woman to serve in separate Cabinet posts for different Administrations, hosts would introduce Mrs Dole with the identical mantra: "She plans to return to her post as president of the American Red Cross upon her husband's election."

Mrs Dole, married for 20 years to the current Senate majority leader, puts it slightly differently. "There will be two President Doles if Bob is elected. He will be President of the United States, and I'll be president of the Red Cross."

While some see Mrs Dole's approach as refreshing, it has already created its own set of problems and conflicts of interest.

The New Yorker controversy, raising issues that surfaced during Mr Dole's presidential campaign in 1988, centres on David Owen, for 20 years one of the senator's closest aides in Kansas before he was convicted of tax fraud.

He spent much of that time managing Mrs Dole's personal investments, placing them in a blind trust while she served in government. The magazine suggests that Mrs Dole was given special treatment on several occasions.

Mrs Dole has dismissed the allegations and Mr Owen has said she was not actually told of blind-trust investments prior to any transaction.

The Doles have made every attempt to minimise the relationship they once had with Mr Owen, a course strikingly similar to that taken by the Clintons with once-favoured associates in Arkansas.

More than that, the revelations have come at a time when American politics is being governed by semantics. If pundits throughout the country are debating whether 60 hours of work in Arkansas by Hillary Clinton can be described as "minimal",

Elizabeth Dole should not Elizabeth Dole, a trained lawyer with top-flight degrees from Duke and Harvard who spent time at Oxford, be expected to read her own financial statements?

This may be the first electoral reminder that beneath the charming southern veneer of Elizabeth Dole lies an ambition that has already taken her to the top of the departments of transportation and labour, as well as the American Red Cross. She has harboured ambitions for the presidency as well as the vice-presidency and, since student days, has wanted to be married to the President of the United States.

Until now, the woman described by Lyndon B. Johnson as "a sugar-coated magnolia" has managed to disguise her single-minded intent, but just as conservative America thought it had seen the back of one dabbling First Lady, another is apparently waiting chameleon-like in the wings.



Elizabeth Dole

How I wrote the book, got the dog and fixed the film

Little did Valerie Grove know how big an impact writing *Dodie Smith's biography* would have on her own life

"I WRITE THIS sitting in the kitchen sink." Until recently I had never read the famous opening line of *Dodie Smith's I Capture the Castle*, but every woman I met (and several men) had. It had been in print for 45 years, a favourite with young girls and their mothers. Antonia Fraser told me it contained the most erotic scene ever written: Armistead Maupin based a novel on its format; and even the unromantic Alan Brien (the least sentimental man in the world, as his wife Jill Tweedie said) thought it a strangely beguiling work.

Then I was asked to write *Dodie Smith's biography* by the novelist Julian Barnes, her literary executor.

I had imagined the dog-loving Dodie to be a sweet little old lady, the author of 1930s plays like *Dear Octopus*, later an admired autobiographer of her flapper-girl youth on the stage, and as a salesgirl at Heals in the 1920s.

Early in 1991 I happened to be interviewing Gwen Frangon-Davies on her 100th birthday, for *The Times*. After leaving her cottage I was driven back to Audley End station, and we passed a thatched cottage, closed and shuttered. "That was Dodie Smith's house," she had died six months before. "What happened to her last dalmatian?" I asked. I was told that Charley had died of a broken heart.

A few months later Julian Barnes rang. The hall of his house was now cluttered with Dodie's papers, to be shipped to Boston University. Carmen Callil, Julian said, wanted to publish a biography. She told me: "Read *I Capture the Castle*, then you'll do it."

She was right. I was captivated like so many others from page two, where Rose, the more beautiful of the two sisters who live in penury in a Suffolk castle, says she will go on the streets if necessary, to make some money, and Cassandra retorts briskly that she can't very well go on the streets in the depths of Suffolk. It was sharp and witty and full



Dodie Smith and Charley, her last dog: nagged by her lost fame, she wrote *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* in a state of furious resentment

of bizarre characters — and I knew that Dodie herself would be an interesting character.

I did not realise how interesting. After reading all her books and meeting her surviving friends, I got to snow-bound Boston in February 1994. Her diaries, which ran to millions of words, revealed that the lover she had called "Oliver" in her published memoirs was in fact Sir Ambrose Heal, the Terence Conran of his day. He already had a wife and a rather grand mistress, Lady Maufe, but Dodie told him shamelessly she would be content with "crumbs from a rich man's table". The character of "a young girl poised between childhood and adultery" resurfaced again and again in her novels.

There was also the faggotry. Dodie's circle of friends were almost all gay: Isherwood, John van Druten, Noel and Binkie etc. She preferred her menfolk untrammelled by wives and children — she never wanted children herself. Isherwood regarded her as one of the few people he could discuss his work with. When she came home from her long exile in America, she became fascinated by Julian Barnes, who arrived in 1969 at her cottage aged 22, a friend of her husband's half-sister Laurien: hence his literary executorship.

Several reviewers have remarked on what an unsympathetic creature Dodie was — selfish, egotistical, nagged by her lost fame and success when plays like *Dear Octopus* were superseded by angry young playwrights. But for a biographer this was a rich vein. It was in a state of furious resentment that she wrote *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* in 1956. When Disney bought it for his cartoon film, one of the most successful and money-spinning ever, it kept her going financially for years. And Pongo and Cruella de Vil have joined the immortals of children's literature.

There are two cheering postscripts to my story of a storyteller. The first was that the moment I finished the book, I acquired a dalmatian puppy whom we named Beezie (Dodie's married name was Beesley) who happens to be the best-looking, best-natured dog in the world.

The other postscript is cinematic. When the original Disney dalmatians cartoon came out in 1961, Dodie wrote to Walt, peevishly complaining about the smallness of her credit at the end. "If you write me another of your cute little stories," Disney wrote back, "I will see that your credit is plenty large." Dodie at once sent him *I Capture the Castle* — it had been optioned many times since its publication in 1949 — which Disney snapped up for \$50,000 as a vehicle for Hayley Mills. But although screenplays were written,

the film was never made. At last, while I was writing the book, Dodie's estate managed to exchange the rights to *I Capture the Castle* for Disney's right to remake *101 Dalmatians*.

When I heard this, last February, I wrote to the film director Mike Newell, who was in Hollywood because of *Four Weddings and a Funeral's* Oscar nominations. I picked Newell because he had used my drawing-room to shoot a scene of a previous *success* fou of his,

Enchanted April. I thought he dealt beautifully with Elizabeth von Arnim's exquisite novel about four women who leave dreary London for an Italian palazzo, and I thought he might work a similar translation to the screen for Dodie's oddly beguiling little masterpiece.

Last week I heard the thrilling news that Mark Shivas has secured *I Capture the Castle* as a feature film for BBC Films, and Mike Newell is indeed going to direct it. I wonder who will play the 17-year-old Cassandra? A terrific role for some budding mega-

star. (In 1954, when it had a brief run as a play at the Aldwych Theatre, Cassandra was played by Virginia McKenna, who won plaudits even from hard-hearted critics like Ken Tynan.)

We shall see. It is certainly going to be a very good year for Dodie Smith — her centenary year. And she would have loved seeing *I Capture the Castle* on screen at last.

Dear Dodie by Valerie Grove is published this week by Chatto & Windus at £22. There is a Kaleidoscope Special on Dodie Smith on Radio 4, Saturday, 7.30pm.

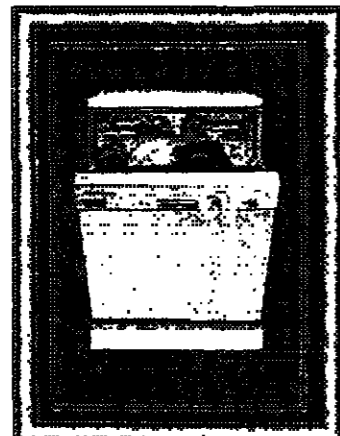
THE MIELE SALE



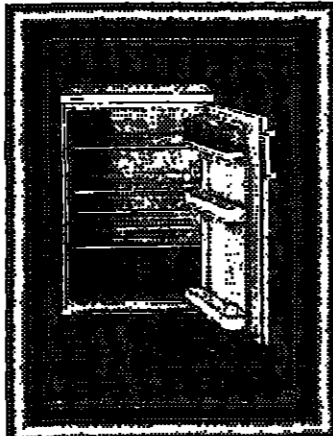
PREMIER W800 WASHING MACHINE
MRP £795 SAVE £45
NOW £750



S101 VACUUM CLEANER
MRP £159 SAVE £10
NOW £149



G595SC DISHWASHER
MRP £1,200 SAVE £201
NOW £999



K1348S LARDER REFRIGERATOR
MRP £375 SAVE £26
NOW £349

WORKS OF ART THAT ARE NOW PRICELESS

Miele

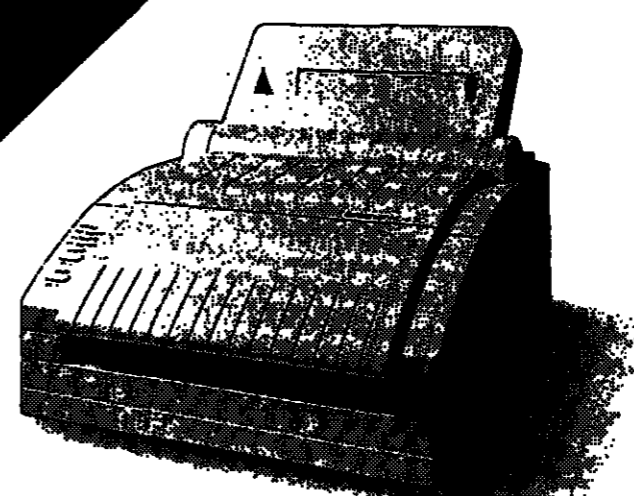
Anything else is a compromise

Sale ends 29th February 1996. For details of sale models and your nearest Miele stockist, please telephone 011 338 554488

INSIDE
SECTION
2

Drinking himself to an Oscar? Nicolas Cage's performance in *Leaving Las Vegas* is reviewed by Geoff Brown
Page 37

From
around
£329 + VAT



Brother have the best selling
range of 6ppm
laser printers in the UK.
(Shouldn't that tell you something?)

It should tell you that if you buy a Brother HL-600 series laser printer, you've made the right choice.

What? You need more convincing?

Well, they offer truly high performance, a superb first page out coupled with six page per minute output. They are fully networkable and happy printing directly from both Windows and DOS environments.

They are jam packed with features too, many more than we have room for here, just look at the panel on the right.

Still not convinced? PC Magazine were, they awarded the HL-630 the coveted title of Best Printer.

Now, doesn't that tell you something?



- 6 pages per minute
- Superfast first page out
- GDI mode for Windows™
- PCL as standard for direct DOS printing
- Network connectivity option
- 300 dpi & 600 dpi printing resolutions
- Straight paper path
- Low cost per copy
- 200 sheet input tray
- Enhanced memory management

Call now on 0345 535 100.

Quoting Ref: TM022

brother

BROTHER U.K. LTD, SHEPLEY STREET, AUDENSHAW, MANCHESTER M14 1JD BROTHER INDUSTRIES LTD, NAGOYA, JAPAN
All trademarks acknowledged. All specifications subject to change without notice

هنا من الفصل

Government by patriots, not quislings

Max Beloff calls for a coalition against European federalism

We find ourselves, at the beginning of 1996, in a very modelled political situation, in which serious argument has little place and much time and energy are devoted to shadow-boxing, both between parties and within them. One reason is that the commentators on whom we rely to explain what is going on are inhibited by a political vocabulary which does not fit the current picture. Why, after all, should we more than 200 years after they were first coined in relation to France's revolutionary assembly, go on using "Left" and "Right", as though all the issues that divide us could conveniently be encompassed by these terms? They barely help with understanding the Labour Party, they make no sense at all when applied to the Conservatives.

The reason is not just the passage of time, but the fact that the all-important question of the day to which answers are required concerns Britain's relations with the rest of Europe. How that question is answered determines everything else. The fact that "Europe" usually appears quite low down when the voters are polled on what they think of as most important merely indicates that our leaders have not so far managed to explain why this question is so crucial — though there is some evidence that, both here and on the Continent, understanding of the matter is beginning to make strides.

The reason the importance of the issue is still underestimated is that a question cutting across lines of class and party is very rare and usually confined to wartime. The fashionable comparison of divisions in the Conservative Party to the Corn Law crisis of the 1840s is absurd. That crisis was the product of circumstances and personalities unique to that juncture in the nation's affairs. The decision to embark upon a policy of free trade had repercussions upon other political decisions still to come, but it did not determine them.

The question raised in relation to Britain's European role is of another order of magnitude. It is the kind of question that nations usually confront only when at war. The inhabitants of a country overrun by a conqueror have to choose between accepting his authority (collaboration) and denying it (resistance in the hope of liberation). The arguments can be ambiguous in their translation into action, as the recent reminders of the late François Mitterrand's role in the Vichy period have made abundantly plain.

What is clear also is that all other questions of policy fall into abeyance for the conquered nation, since its policies will be determined by the will of the conqueror. From Napoleon's Europe to Hitler's Europe, the lesson is the same. If that is not understood in Britain today, it is only because Britain's fighting men saved this country from both experiences. We seem to breed quislings in peacetime.

After long experience, we

have a Government which has arrived painfully at a full understanding of what is really at stake. If we were to accept the views of Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, on what the forthcoming inter-governmental conference (IGC) should do — and in particular the extension of majority voting — and if Britain were to accept entry into a single currency, we would have surrendered our remaining powers of democratic decision-making in two vital aspects. Both our legislative capacity and our control over foreign and defence policy would have been given up to bodies in which we would have only a minority voice.

Entry into the proposed single currency would mean that no future British government would be able to have either a monetary or a fiscal policy of its own. Since Conservative governments would not have the freedom to follow their own preferences and Labour governments would be equally constrained, it would hardly matter whether the dominant mood was for the "Right" or for the "Left".

No doubt there are individuals in all three of our parties who would not object to this outcome; but they can only preserve their political role by indulging in obfuscation — pretending that one could have and maintain a single currency while allowing individual governments to decide upon interest rates or the levels of taxation. But experience makes it unlikely that they can continue to maintain their credibility.

What happens, however, if at the IGC and the future European summit Britain proves to be isolated? It will then become a question of whether the effort to remain within the European Union, if it survives, is still worth making. It may be that, before the end of the century, a British government will be obliged to embark upon the difficult task of disentangling itself from the Treaties of Rome and Maastricht in order to work out a new — and one hopes happier — relationship with its neighbours.

It is likely (opinion polls notwithstanding) that the problem will be confronted initially by a Conservative government. But the issue is so serious that it might prove more desirable for the final steps to be taken by a National government, in which elements in the Labour Party who would still wish to see Britain self-governing could be brought into a Cabinet which would have this as its sole or major task.

To prepare for such an eventuality and to follow what is actually happening in Europe and beyond, rather than repeating the empty rhetoric of a generation ago, seems to be the proper task for the coming years of all those to whom British identity is more than an empty shell.

Lord Beloff's book *Britain and European Union: A Dialogue of the Deaf* will be published in the summer.



The tiger and the dragon

Chris Patten's popularity proves that Hong Kong will survive 1997

Hong Kong is one of the great cities of the world at a peak moment in its history. Rome at the time of the Emperor Augustus, Venice in the age of Titian, London in the year of Waterloo, New York in the Roaring Twenties must all have had this heady feeling of unlimited energy, of being the city of the future. The energy seems never to cease, by day or night. I awoke early on my first morning here; the clock on the Star Ferry terminal was showing 6.15am, well before dawn; the Hong Kong traffic was almost as busy as at midday. Modern Hong Kong makes any European city seem feeble by comparison. It is the strongest possible symbol of the rise of Asia.

Yet Hong Kong faces an imminent event which no world city, when rising to the height of its power, has ever had to experience before. On July 1, 1997, just 18 months away, the sovereign power will pass from Britain to China. This transfer will occur without the people of Hong Kong being consulted, without the option of independence, and it will take Hong Kong from a democracy to a non-democratic authority. The transfer will be followed by the dissolution of the partly democratic Legislative Council, the appointment of a new chief executive and the threatened change to the Bill of Rights.

The majority of the people of Hong Kong have not been given the right to a British passport. We are leaving them with no protection to fall back on. It is an extraordinary and in some ways a shameful transaction. Neither the people of Hong Kong nor of Britain believe that it could have been avoided — the nationalist determination of China to regain Hong Kong could not have been resisted. But it is still shameful for Britain, because the colonial government was itself afraid of democracy, or even of equality of opportunity, for far too long. Only in the late 1970s, a bare 20 years ago, did Chinese people gain equal opportunities in the higher civil service.

The Chinese experts who advised successive British governments appeased the Chinese fear of democracy almost right up to the end. Only the last Governor, Chris Patten, has been a genuine democrat in his heart.

Hong Kong opinion itself is divided. There is a very wealthy elite, which has benefited from high real estate prices and low taxes, who are at little risk themselves. They have their overseas passports; they have large offshore funds. Some, though

not all of them have joined the chorus of Chinese criticism of Chris Patten, protesting against the modest advances towards democracy he has tried to make. There has been much talk of the potential loss of business, some of it exaggerated. In fact these Hong Kong business people are increasingly optimistic about the deals they will be able to do with China — the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has been rising sharply.

Chris Patten has followed policies which Britain ought to have pursued at least a generation ago. He came too late to his office for his policies to have become irreversible. But he did win and has kept the support of the mass of the Hong Kong people, particularly of those who do not have the security of foreign passports, overseas bank accounts or second homes in Vancouver. His approval ratings in the opinion polls have never fallen below 50 per cent, and now stand at the extraordinary level of 74 per cent, despite the well-understood fact that his power is waning as the Chinese takeover comes nearer. He is probably now the most popular head of government in any significant country on Earth, three or four times as popular as Alain Juppé or John Major, and five times as popular as Boris Yeltsin. That is because the ordinary people of Hong Kong know that he believes in the democracy which Britain failed in the past to give them, and which China certainly intends to deny them. They see Chris Patten as being on their side, despite the fact that he is the representative of the colonial power which will not give them the security of passports, and even though he is not Chinese and does not even speak their language.

The future of Hong Kong will be decided by the future of China. For the past 15 years China has enjoyed unprecedented economic growth as a result of liberalisation, though that has not been accompanied by progress towards political democracy. In wealthier provinces, the economy has been expanding at around 15 per cent a year, which means doubling every five years. The open economy has spread through most of China —

William Rees-Mogg

Macarism, China's growth causes contradictions, particularly the classic Marxist contradiction of generating a rising class whose interests are hostile to those of the existing power structure. In 15 years' time, China will have an advanced bourgeoisie, educators, scientists and so on, of at least 300 million people. They will have completely open access to world information. Their average standard of living will be high — many of them will earn between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per household, in current real terms. Such a transformation of Chinese society will be the inevitable consequence of Chinese economic development, but it is also a condition for this economic growth. Without such a class, no nation can belong to the modern world. Into this new class, Hong Kong will fit perfectly, much better than it fits into the transitional China of the mid 1990s.

This is not the only contradiction. China's economic growth has been accompanied by increasing corruption, by an excessive enrichment of the political class, and has resulted in growing hostility between the richer and poorer provinces, and between the cities and the peasants. In China, more than anywhere else on Earth, the economy of the 21st century is running side by side with the economy of the Middle Ages. There is also a dangerous division between the Communist power structure and the People's Liberation Army. Furthermore, there is pressure from the ethnic and religious minorities, of which Islam is the largest and most militant but Tibet has the strongest international appeal. This week a Deputy Party Secretary announced in Tibet that "We must further strengthen control over temples and monasteries, continue the patriotic education of monks and nuns and take control of other religious sites."

That sinister pronouncement was reported in *The South China Morning Post*, which is sympathetic to China, and it hardly gave reassurance in Hong Kong.

There is still room for an optimistic view. Hong Kong is very robust, as all the great trading cities of history have been. London has been burnt three times in 2,000 years, by Boudicca, by the Great Fire of 1666 and by Hitler's Luftwaffe, and it has recovered each time. In the past 60 years, Hong Kong has been brutally occupied by the Japanese and has survived decades with Chairman Mao as a threatening neighbour.

Hong Kong will survive whatever happens in China, and will recover even if the worst occurs. China's Government may be excessively nervous and defensive, but policy does not all move in one direction. This week has seen further repression of religion generally. That is negative. It has seen "the full threat of army action" against Taiwan. That too is negative. But the Foreign Ministry has also given a press conference to announce that the National People's Congress is going to limit detention without trial. The police will in future only be able to hold suspects for a month, and for certain reasons.

Hong Kong is the city of success about to come under the control of a nation in a turmoil of change. That will be an alarming experience, but it will offer opportunities as well as dangers. In the scale of China's future, the wealth, the people, the ideas and the energy of Hong Kong can all be put on the positive side.

A French historian at Oxford

Norman Stone

salutes the spirit

of Richard Cobb

At a grand reception for the visiting French President, the royal equerry inquired after Professor Cobb, saying the Queen would like to meet him. "Ah, perhaps not," he said, when he saw the professor in an alcove, much the worse for wear. That sort of thing happened quite often to Richard Cobb, who died this week aged 78. Indeed, it has happened to a long line of distinguished scholars, not least the great 18th-century Cambridge classicist Richard Porson — to be seen, if Trinity legend has it right, impossible in the arms of two barmaids. Nowadays, heroic drinking of this class is quite out of order, but it was a part of what made Richard Cobb tick. He knew the French Revolution inside out, was an outstanding teacher, and wrote some of the finest English historical prose of this century.

I remember my first reading of Cobb. It was a volume of essays called *A Second Identity*, which had an extraordinary breadth, fantastical erudition, and a style as memorable as Orwell's or A.J.P. Taylor's. "Despite much failing and whirling, this crenellated narrative never quite gets off the ground," he said of one otherwise well-received book.

Cobb had been sent to a French family in the Thirties. He loved the ease of social life there, free from the cramped worlds of Turnbridge Wells and Shrewsbury, being taught how to behave badly while learning to speak and write French superbly.

His youthful experience of France contrasted with a more painful one in Dollfus's Austria. His mother had sent him to learn German in the house of Felix Salten, the author of *Bambi*, but, with Quaker sympathies, had given him subversive literature to distribute around the working-class districts. He was picked up by policemen with feather-brushes in their hats, and kicked all along the Ottakringer Hauptstrasse, as women with huge, baleful faces stared out of the tenement windows, their elbows encased in an elbow-accommodating device known as *accoudoirs*. Thus he acquired a hatred of bossy governments.

When, after the war, he went back to France, he lived for years — legend has it — more or less as a *chouchou*, looked after, for a time, by the French Communist Party. It did not know what it was doing, for it never had a worse English enemy than Cobb: how he mocked its dinners, where he would spoon his way down to the end of the soup and gradually see the face of Picasso's Stalin ("the coryphaeus of the arts and sciences") emerge at the bottom of the plate.

"Napoleon, that shit," he would say. You might have expected him to revere Napoleon, who, after all, reintroduced order after the Terror. For Cobb, Napoleon was just a big bully, the sort of power-crazed monster whom revolutions create. You were much better off in the world of the *ancien régime*, said Cobb: you could rely on it for a laugh, and it would in the end be human. For another of Cobb's dislikes was the technocrat, offering concrete buildings and dead prose and fussy bureaucratic inquiries. He truly hated what had been done to the Paris of his youth by ghastly products of schools of administration.

Cobb was very French in his hatred of small nationalities. To this subject he devoted some of his best invective. He wrote an essay about the Belgian-Flemish fascist, Joris van Severen: the rudest and most literate thing ever written about Flemish nationalism, which Cobb detested. It drew endless protests in the *TLS* afterwards. But he knew what had happened in Belgium during the war, and could not see why van Severen, a *frustration* with perfect French, could ever bother with tinpot nationalism.

He spent some years at Aberystwyth, and hated Welsh nationalism with equal venom. His dislike of Irish nationalism underlay perhaps his most notorious book, *A Classical Education*, in which he described the murder by an Irish school friend of his mother. Since Cobb, then an undergraduate, knew something about this, he found himself wanted for extradition, and fled abroad — the best excuse of all time for postponing a tutorial.

What made Richard Cobb possible? That he was part of an elite mattered: friends would cover up for the eccentricities, and loved him for them. He was also very well educated, with an astonishingly broad knowledge of English and French literature. His *Imagines* were quite chaotic, but when he got his Oxford chair, he could still just about afford a house within walking distance of his college. He needed to walk the bank threatened to foreclose until he was awarded an CBE.

Nowadays, he would not find it easy to collect half a dozen undergraduates for a special subject involving French as a foreign language, and would be having to fill out forms designed by technicians to be read by computers, listing his "research outputs". So the little Napoleons won. But I have a feeling that the memory of Richard Cobb will cheer his country's posterity up when they lie a-mouldering in their concrete.

The author is Professor of Modern History at Oxford.

Tight ship

THE QUEEN looked to her family archives before making it quite clear to the Duchess of York that Buckingham Palace would not step in to clear her debts. Another royal debtor was given similarly short shrift by the monarch.

Princess Mary Adelaide, the Duchess of Teck and mother of Queen Mary, was a woman with a gift as large as her overdraft with Coutts & Co. She also owed vast sums to tradesmen.

Eventually, in 1878, she took her begging bowl to her cousin, Queen Victoria, who was far from amused. "If once it is done, it will be asked for again and again," declared Victoria, who ordered Princess Mary to give up either her home in Kensington or White Lodge in Richmond Park. "It was far too much for her to undertake to keep up two houses," commented the Queen acidly.

The sad lesson for the Duchess of York is that financial cutbacks, even huge ones, don't get the Princess out of a scrape. With her husband and her daughter, she was forced to go abroad and live in villas borrowed from friends.

Her daughter, Queen Mary, consequently lived a life of frugality, commenting towards the end of her life: "My parents were always in short street." Her thrift set the example for subsequent generations.



Princess Mary Adelaide: civil list, but uncivil reply

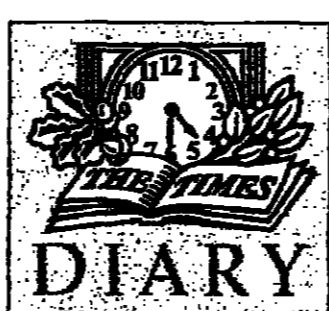
tions — as the Prince of Wales can readily attest. He was once ordered by his mother, who keeps her buttermilk in the fridge, to scour Sandringham's grounds for many hours for a lost Corgi lead. "Corgi leads cost money," insisted Her Majesty.

Burns night

THE WORLD'S oldest entertainer is too ill to attend his 100th birthday celebrations this week. A bout of flu has kept him confined to his home in Los Angeles since his last outing as a guest at Frank Sinatra's Christmas party.

George Burns, the cigar-wielding comedian known to friends and admirers as God, was due to attend a gala dinner in his honour on Tuesday in Beverly Hills. Instead he sent his regrets. "As this big day came closer and closer people kept asking me what I would like for my 100th birthday," the vaudeville veteran said in a statement read to 300 guests at the Four Seasons Hotel. "What do you give a man who's been so blessed? Another 100 years? A night with Sharon Stone?"

Should that stalker ever catch up with Madonna, he will find her



well prepared. She has started a course of boxing lessons with a martial arts instructor and low-budget movie-star, Paul Mordando, who is a tenth degree black belt. Already, she can fell a man with one blow.

Nellie's way

CAMILIA Parker Bowles's brother, Mark Shand, has marital difficulties. He has been trying to fix up Tara, the female elephant he owns in India, with a husband — and the road to the altar is proving bloody. First off, the groom Shivaji works in a national park and so is officially recognised as a government employee — a mass of Indian bureaucracy had to be negotiated before he could meet his bride.

Then, when everything seemed set, Shivaji got the urge. "He was in a sexual frenzy. Killed two people and gored another cow," says Shand, who was at London Zoo yesterday publicising a campaign to save the Arabian Oryx. "I hope he has calmed down and we'll soon hear the thunder of tiny feet."

He was nothing if not candid, the late Richard Cobb, Oxford's former Professor of Modern History. As chairman of the Booker Prize in 1984, he appalled London's literati by boasting about having read only two pages of Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu* before flinging it aside for something ruder. "Just like everyone else who says they have read it," he explained.

New balls

THE RED-BLOODED trade minister who reportedly enjoyed a healthy canoodle with a topless model last year is keen on his mainly pursuits. As captain of the Commons and Lords rugby team, Philip Oppenheim is taking his players to Paris tomorrow for the annual match against the French Parliamentary team. "This is a grudge match," spits



"Derek has a cunning plan to extend his overdraft"

the Amber Valley MP. "The French initially refused to play us, but we humiliated them into agreeing by leaving a box of tennis balls outside the French Embassy," — a reference to Shakespeare's *Henry V*, in which the Dauphin gives the English king a gift of the same as an insult. "It's not the playing that counts — but the winning."

P.H.S.

صكنا من الامم



SEA OF TROUBLES

Yeltsin is drowning — and the West must look beyond him

The hammer-blows inflicted by last month's Russian parliamentary elections are beginning to take their toll. Andrei Kozhev, the longest-serving liberal in President Yeltsin's Cabinet, resigned on taking up his Duma seat, and has been replaced as Foreign Minister by Yevgeni Primakov, an old-style *aparatchik*, who promptly indicated a return to more confrontational policies. On Tuesday Anatoli Chubais, virtually the sole economic reformer left in Russia's Government, quit, unceremoniously forced out by Mr Yeltsin's denunciation of his record in masterminding mass privatisation. More resignations are expected of key figures. The purge of the reformers is virtually complete; Mr Yeltsin is looking more and more like a traditional, conservative Soviet leader.

The reshuffle was not an automatic result of the elections, which brought back in force the reconstituted Communists and gave Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's virulent nationalists the second largest block of seats. Mr Yeltsin still has huge residual powers to govern by decree and to determine the make-up of his Cabinet. But he has sensed the shift in mood, the disillusion with reform and the increasingly vocal anger directed at all those associated with *pro-Western* or *pro-market* policies. With his popularity at an all-time low and amid a corroding cynicism about the "sick old man" in the Kremlin, he has jettisoned his former allies, his principles and his promises in an attempt to save his own vainglorious bid for re-election.

Economists maintain that the dismissal of Mr Chubais is less of a disaster than it might seem. He has been an unusually successful

minister — so much so that most of Russia's retail trade is now in private hands, and even the transfer from state control of arthritic heavy industries is now limping forward. No one has yet shown any will to reinstitute the command economy; even the Communists are not calling for a return to classic communism. However, almost all Russians are exasperated by the way state concerns are being replaced with private monopolies controlled by criminals, mafia interests and the former nomenclature; a change of responsibility for reform may be the best way of preserving the main body of the reforms themselves.

What matters now is the smack of firm government, however irrelevant to the real demands of growth and reform. For the hammer-blows are coming not only from the clamorous Duma, but from the crash of rockets and the mounting death toll in Chechnia. The hijacking of the Turkish ferry and the inevitable broadening of this bitter feud into an international incident increases the pressure on the Russian leader to show himself unbending and implacable. For this reason also, the new Foreign Minister is talking a language that the West has not heard for years — crude nationalism that is seeking to rebuild old alliances with enemies of the West: Saddam Hussein in Iraq and the mullahs in Iran. Mr Yeltsin, in a desperate attempt to keep ahead of the disasters rolling over his Government, is seeking shelter in old attitudes and old policies. The West must soon ask whether it should still offer such visible support for a man floundering in such contradictions.

PUBLIC COMPANIES

The City should be cautious when deciding Granada or Forte

In the days since our last comment on the Granada/Forte corporate soap opera, its progress has strengthened its hold on viewers. Gerry Robinson, the chief of the Coronation Street maker Granada, has raised his bid for the Forte hotel empire from £3.3 billion to £3.8 billion. Sir Rocco Forte has split the role of chairman and chief executive. New characters have appeared, the latest being John Hoerner, best known for picking up and dusting down what Sir Ralph Halpern left behind at Burton Group. The saviour of Burton is backing Sir Rocco and has agreed to join the board as a non-executive director.

In the City, where the serious action takes place, Granada's stockbrokers have spent almost £400 million acquiring, with some difficulty, 9.9 per cent of Forte's equity. The founding Forte family still control some 8 per cent of the shares. New and influential brokers' circulars yesterday favoured the old management being given another chance. Everything is to play for come next Tuesday's 1pm deadline.

One source of City nervousness is the role of Mercury Asset Management, the pension fund specialist that is the main shareholder in both Granada and Forte. Mr Robinson would hardly have begun his hostile tilt without sounding out his company's principal owners. What fascinates the City cognoscenti is to what extent MAM may have encouraged Granada in its controversial bid for Forte and what MAM's own clients may think about their pension funds being used in this way: if Forte could be a target, what about them, they may think.

Mr Robinson's method of getting to his favoured parts of Forte represents an asset-stripping exercise that would not have disgraced the greatest days of that art. The conglomerate that Mr Robinson is determined to build will start life with some £4 billion of borrowings. In order to shrink this debt burden to more acceptable levels, Granada will then embark on some £2

billion of asset sales at prices unlikely to be enhanced by the visibility of the plan. The price is no longer cheap; the decision for all shareholders will be close. The City will make big profits from the fees of all these transactions. But what still worries viewers outside the City is that such highly-leveraged bidders, a breed which they thought went out after the excesses of the Eighties, are still at large and active.

The voices of this criticism are more popular than political, more likely to be found among customers and small shareholders than in Government or Opposition. The Labour party was unlikely to rush to the defence of an empire that was so staunch a supporter of Margaret Thatcher: the Tories could hardly campaign for so generous a friend. The saga has not, however, gone unnoticed on the Opposition benches — and the City, with an eye on the next election, should take note. Labour has long toyed with strengthening the roles of the Office of Fair Trading, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It sees debt mountains as only rarely auguring well for consumers or employees.

Sir Rocco Forte and Mr Robinson are now delivering their final presentations to City institutions, pension funds and insurance companies. These bodies traditionally cast their votes at the last minute. It is also a tradition that the institutions' vote is kept secret, unless the financial house chooses to stand up and be counted. Perhaps this latest battle will mark the beginning of the end for such anonymity. Will pension-holders at last decide to ask what their fund is doing with their money? The public has no reason to encourage highly leveraged asset-stripping exercises and a host of reasons to oppose them. Fund managers should bear in mind on Tuesday that they are entrusted with the public's savings, the public confidence in the City and a good deal else of public interest besides.

SEIZE THE TIME

MPs must keep the Butterfill Bill alive

Governments whose parliamentary majority has dwindled to almost nothing over a long period in power lose their nerve easily. The present Cabinet's feebleness in the face of trouble or pressure has rarely been as plain as in the miserable saga of the Private Member's Bill on daylight saving which returns to the House of Commons on Friday. No sooner had the Scottish Secretary, Mr Michael Forsyth, threatened ministers with predictions of electoral damage north of the border, than Mr Major's cringing colleagues caved in and refused to back the measure.

Mr John Butterfill's Bill to create an extra hour of afternoon daylight and to bring Britain in line with continental European time will die without government help. The only question remaining is how soon Mr Forsyth succeeds in killing it. The Bill will only have a chance of a second reading and a few more months of life if at least hundred MPs take part in a vote to keep it alive tomorrow.

The Bill, even if doomed by the Cabinet's weakness, deserves longer in the public eye: MPs should take the trouble to turn up. Changing the clocks has already been a long haul and will take more time yet. A few months more of debate will keep the issue alive. Altering the nation's clocks does not belong with what President Bush called the "vision thing". Mr Butterfill's Bill is a commonsense thing. Research suggests that between 100 and 200 deaths on the roads might be saved across the whole of Britain each year by delaying the start of darkness. Crime rates should fall. Old peoples' lives

should be lightened. Sport, tourism and trans-European businesses would all gain.

The Government has made no attempt to dispute the mountain of evidence which has now been gathered — much of it by Whitehall agencies — in favour of daylight saving. Mr Forsyth musters no statistics but merely blusters that changing the clocks would be "deeply damaging in Scotland". His colleagues have meekly accepted that the rhythm of their day and night should be governed by the truculent Scots. Members of the Government have been instructed to abstain on Friday and the whips have put out the word that support for Mr Butterfill would be ill-regarded. Scottish ministers will be allowed to vote against the Bill.

The strength of feeling in Scotland is not in dispute; the question is whether emotion north of the border should settle the question. The greatest good of the greatest number is being sacrificed to save the seats of Mr Forsyth and a handful of his colleagues. The Scottish Secretary should bear in mind the words of Edmund Burke: "Parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation, with one interest, that of the whole; where not local purposes, not local prejudices ought to guide, but the general good, resulting from the general reason of the whole." The best rebuke that MPs of all parties can deliver to the Government's limp cowardice is a large enough presence in the House on Friday morning to prolong the debate. This Bill may not succeed, but one day the change will be made. Time is on the side of sense.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prison cuts as threat to education, humanity and safety

From Lady Andrew, Chairman, Prisoners' Education Trust

Sir, I regret that in speaking out against the swingeing cuts in prison expenditure which are planned for the next financial year (report, January 15) most commentators have emphasised the impact on security and risk to the public. This serves to inflate public fears and reflects the language now common in discussions of crime and penal policy.

Security is an important consideration. It is, however, obscuring other vital matters which the Prison Service should bear in mind, such as rehabilitation and the reduction of recidivism. In this context, the education of offenders should surely have some priority.

The National Prison Survey, 1991, showed that 43 per cent of offenders have no qualifications and that over 80 per cent left school by 16. A survey of over 600 prisoners in 1995 found that 58 per cent had no chance to improve their educational qualifications while in prison. It has been calculated that almost half of prisoners have low levels of literacy and even more have difficulties with numeracy.

Education gives them something constructive to do during their sentences, a training in the discipline of study and a boost to their self-confidence. It can lead to gaining qualifications, without which it is almost impossible to find work on release. The Prison Service Rule 29 begins: "Every prisoner able to profit from the educational facilities provided at a prison shall be encouraged to do so."

We in the Prisoners' Education Trust see that there is a steady demand for education which is too often thwarted. I am at a loss to understand the logic of forcing governors to make cuts in education

departments. In one London prison, teaching hours will be reduced from over 9,000 to about 3,500 in a year.

Education can provide a cost-effective means of attacking the cycle of re-offending. The present proposals are likely to lead to anger and frustration among prisoners and education staff, tensions and difficulties for other prison staff and the possibility of money wasted on the control of unrest and riot. Is this what we want?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH ANDREW,
Chairman,
Prisoners' Education Trust,
Fleet House,
173 Haydon Road, SW19,
January 15.

From the General Secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation

Sir, I am increasingly convinced that the mission statement for the Prison Service that reads, "Our duty is to look after [prisoners] with humanity and help them lead law-abiding and useful lives in custody after release" could now, reasonably, be dropped.

Is the Home Office interested in helping prisoners when it erodes education and marginalises employment and training opportunities in favour of security, or slashes purposeful home visits, or increases the likelihood of homelessness by removing housing-benefit entitlement?

The answers are clearly "no". Rehabilitation has slipped from the agenda.

Pictures of chained-up pregnant women, or the fact that women may have to provide, before others, urine samples for random drug-testing, graphically show that humanity is fast disappearing from prisons. The probation service has always

worked within prisons and with released prisoners in the belief that by assisting in the transition from captivity to freedom we were contributing to a process endorsed by those at the top. If our work is further undermined by the imminent cuts we will have confirmation that this is no longer the case.

Yours faithfully,
MARY HONEYBALL,
General Secretary,
Association of Chief Officers of Probation,
212 Whitechapel Road, E1.

From Mr John Harding

Sir, The cuts which have just been announced will make prison conditions even less conducive to good order and effective rehabilitation.

In the six London prisons alone they could lead to the withdrawal of about 25 probation officers from a complement of 59. These staff are involved in assessing the risk posed by individual prisoners and preparing them for release on supervision. Failure to invest adequately in this work will threaten public safety and worsen their chances of resettlement.

In our discussions with them, prison governors have been well aware of these consequences but are faced with unenviable choices between unacceptable alternatives. The notion that "prison works" is dubious. It is likely to be devalued even further by stripping away those opportunities that exist to increase prisoners' skills and change their behaviour.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARDING
(Chief Probation Officer),
Inner London Probation Service,
71/73 Great Peter Street, SW1,
January 16.

Bishops' moves on the cards

From the Reverend Father Francis A. C. S. Bown

Sir, The problem with bishops' palaces (report, January 11) is not the palaces but the bishops.

So many of the present bench are either angst-ridden liberals or puffed evangelicals that it is not surprising that they fail to use their palaces properly.

The episcopal palace should be the social centre of the diocese, where the bishop entertains his clergy and offers them sustenance and support. Too often, however, the grand surroundings witness the comings and goings only of clerical bureaucrats and the grandees of local business and politics. Ordinary clergy (unless in trouble) are kept well away.

It is, of course, entirely consistent with the Church of England's record of financial acumen that it should be thinking of selling off its palatial assets at the bottom of the property market. (It did the same thing in the 1960s with its best rectories and vicarages.)

The established Church does not need new, small-scale bishops' houses: it needs some bishops of real stature and vision to fill the historic palaces it has inherited.

Yours, in Domino,
FRANCIS BOWN,
St Stephen's Presbytery,
29 Westbourne Avenue,
Kingston-upon-Hull, Yorkshire,
January 11.

From Mr Ancrum F. Evans

Sir, The Bishop of Worcester uses his residence, Hartlebury Castle, for diocesan purposes: for example, interviews for clergy (and their wives) who have applied to be presented to a living. At one such meeting, held in 1989, the 19 people attending, including the archdeacon, six wardens and myself, were involved in five separate confidential discussions. Such meetings are by no means uncommon.

Another use may be a meeting with an overseas Christian leader. On all such occasions, an important and indeed, for Christians, a very useful facility is the chapel, steeped in history: I believe that the bishop and his visitors use it on a daily basis. I have certainly prayed there several times.

The Church Commissioners must not be allowed to sell Hartlebury Castle without first consulting the parishes of the diocese directly, and secondly without making serious endeavour to recover a large part of the gigantic deficit for which they are responsible.

Domestically, the house is relatively inconvenient. I have no doubt that the bishop and his wife live there out of duty rather than choice.

Yours sincerely,
ANCRUM F. EVANS
(Lay patron of the United Benefice of Clifton-on-Teme, Lower Sapey and the Shelsleys),
Hartlebury House,
Clifton-on-Teme, Worcestershire,
January 11.

From Mrs Sarah Griffiths

Sir, According to the chaplain to the new Bishop of Portsmouth bishops are being evicted from their large houses to ones "which will suit the needs of a bishop in the 21st century". Will small congregations in large churches also be asked to move?

Yours faithfully,
SARAH GRIFFITHS,
The Birches,
Vowchurch Common, Herefordshire,
January 11.

A fish called zander

From Mr Richard Morgan

Sir, I must take issue with your leading article (January 10) describing the zander as "the scaly foreign fish".

As you point out in a report on the same day, zander were originally late 19th-century immigrants from Eastern Europe and first lived in three communities in the Woburn Abbey area.

Eighty years and many generations later their descendants became sufficiently anglicised to move into more mainstream English society via the Great Ouse.

Their success must surely recommend them as good citizens — in spite of their somewhat violent nature and able to move in both aristocratic and more down-to-earth circles.

Yours faithfully,
R. MORGAN,
105 Leopold Street,
Loughborough, Leicestershire,
January 11.

Fair play

From the Reverend Dr P. J. Galloway

Sir, Instead of the politically correct but impossibly confusing bi-coloured chess pieces proposed by Mr Michael Parker (letter, January 16), why not move through the looking-glass and take a leaf from the far from non-sensical world of Alice: replace the conflict between black and white by the tetchy, but essentially good-natured, relations between white and red.

Yours sincerely,
PETER GALLOWAY,
The Vicarage,
Lyncroft Gardens, NW6,
January 11.

Risk to game shooting

From Mr Leolin Price, QC

Sir, When the Brussels Commission made the regulation banning the use of the drug Emyl for game birds (report, January 13) had it ascertained that this would put at risk game shooting business in this country worth £294 million annually and 13,000 jobs? If not, why should the Commission and officers responsible for this irresponsible attack upon this country continue in their present employment?

When our Ministry of Agriculture became aware of the proposal, what did they do about it? And did the Ministry's officers assess the damaging effect on our economy and employment? If nothing was done, and particularly if no such assessment was made, why should those officers continue in our employment?

You report that our Government "failed to block" the proposal last summer. Was that failure at bureaucratic or at ministerial level? Nothing should have stopped our Government from exercising power to protect our interest.

Yours truly,
LEOLIN PRICE,
10 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
January 13.

From Ms Leonora Digby Smith

Sir, Now that the Government is to defy Brussels over the new EU regulation to ban the drug Emyl used by game bird breeders, what is their new excuse for not banning the export of live animals for slaughter?

Yours faithfully,
LEONORA DIGBY SMITH,
4a Sharpleshall Street,
Primrose Hill, NW1,
January 16.

Own goal?

From Mr H. W. Lander

Sir, William Rees-Mogg may be forgiven for not knowing that Terry Venables is renowned in footballing circles as the first player to represent England at all age levels ("This is a whole new ball game for me", January 15), but he certainly should have been aware that the usurper who overthrew Richard II was Henry IV (Bolingbroke), not Henry V.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. LANDER,
24 Pochin Drive,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

Sports letters, page 45

Share sales

From Mr Christopher Rouse

Sir, I have today sold 500 Forte shares in the market at 300p per share, 4p per share higher than the "final" cash offer from Granada.

Surely it is wrong that the tax treatment of institutions and pension funds enables them to pay me this 4p per share premium in what is supposedly a free and orderly market.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER ROUSE,
Flat One, 9 Coleherne Road, SW10,
January 15.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Studying chronic fatigue syndrome

From Mr Hugh Faulkner

Sir, Dr Simon Wessely ("ME: is this the answer?", January 9) highlights the need for urgent scientific research of a high calibre if we are to overcome ME, or chronic fatigue syndrome.

To stimulate research the Persistent Virus Disease Research Foundation was launched in 1993 by a group of distinguished scientists and doctors pre-eminent in the field. The public response has been such that already the foundation is funding four major research projects and is making a financial contribution to a fifth.

The scientists are covering a wide field of research, examining the role of viruses and the effect of persisting virus infection on muscle and evaluating the effect of virus infection on the immune system.

We realise that this is only a start in unravelling the mysteries of this highly complex disease. With the dedication of doctors and scientists and continuing public support we are confident that this disease can and will be conquered.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH FAULKNER
(Honorary Director),
Persistent Virus Disease Research Foundation,
4 One Tree Lane,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire,
January 13.

Daylight Bill

From Mr Nick Raynsford, MP for Greenwich (Labour)

Sir, Sir Michael Angus and his co-signatories (letter, January 17) offer a series of estimates of the supposed benefits of changing our clocks from Greenwich Mean Time to Central European Time. These are of course all speculative.

When the same exercise was tried experimentally in the late 1960s and early 1970s the practical experience was very different. The then Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling, commenting on the road traffic accident figures, pointed out that there had been a small increase in road casualties, not a reduction.

He added: "The figures are not clear enough to base a decision on. I think that we should assume one way or the other that there is not a large margin either way."

There is one simple and fundamental reason why we should retain Greenwich Mean Time. Geographi-

cally Britain lies at the western edge of the European continent and its natural time zone is one hour behind that of the Central European axis lying between Berlin and Rome.

No amount of special pleading by the proponents of change can overcome this simple truth.

Yours sincerely,
NICK RAYNSFORD,
House of Commons,
January 17.

From Mr Peter Petts

Sir, With due respect to Sir Michael Angus et al. who are probably chauffeur-driven to their offices for 10am, my pickers and packers (some of them on bicycles) come to work at 8am. At present it is not daylight until 8am. If the proposed changes are effected, next year it will not be light until nine.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PETTS
(Chief Executive),
The Herbarium,
Prickwillow, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

and told that he would have to use "the normal toilet facilities at the far end of the station".

Clearly Eurostar to Paris is quite a different experience from Eurostar from Paris.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY FIELD,
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2.

From Mrs Elodie Stanley

Sir, Less than 20 minutes out of the Gare du Nord en route to Waterloo on Sunday, I decided to visit the buffet car, with the inevitable *l'été* of a train well provisioned in Paris. There I found a modest queue but when I reached its head, no food (unless you count the last tuna sandwich and the only remaining cheeseburger).

Eurostar or Eurostar?

Yours faithfully,
ELODIE STANLEY,
12 Stanley Crescent, W11,
January 15.

When I pointed out that we were able to use similar facilities at Waterloo I was told: "Well, London is London and Paris is Paris." A disabled colleague was denied use of the toilet



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

January 17: The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller at the Memorial Service for Mr Geoffrey Cross (Founder Chairman of the Royal Windsor Horse Show) which was held in St Michael's Church, Bray, Berkshire, today.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Sir Brian McGrath.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Colonel Gerard Leigh.

The Duke and Duchess of York were represented by Captain Neil Blair, RN.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 17: The Princess Royal this morning presented the 1995

Windsor Business Awards at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon attended a Luncheon for

major fundraisers at South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London WC2.

The Princess Royal, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, later launched the Southwark Safer Cities Project in Elmington Road, D'Yonston Estate, London SE5.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this evening attended the British Apparel Export Awards at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London W2.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

January 17: The Prince of Wales this morning opened the Spy

Abstraction Scheme at Buxton Visitors' Centre, Ecton, Derbyshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Air Vice-Marshal George Chesworth).

YORK HOUSE

January 17: The Duke of Kent, President, the Business and Technology Education Council, today presented the Student of the Year Awards, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1.

Lady Norreys gave birth to a son in Gibraltar on January 15.

Memorial celebration

Professor James Edward Meade

A celebration of the life and work of Professor James Edward Meade will be held on Saturday, March 2, 1996, at 2.30pm in the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Dinners

HM Government

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the

host at a dinner given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of the Secretary-General of the WEU.

Oxford University

The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University was the host at a dinner held last night at St Giles' House in

honour of Dr Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, after he had opened the university's new Centre for the Advanced Study of European and Comparative Law.

Among those present were the

German Ambassador, the Pro Vice-Chancellor and the High

Steward of Oxford, the Vice-Chancellor of the Anglo-German

University, the Warden of St Antony's College, the Principal of Lady Margaret Hall and the Director of the Centre.

County Surveyors' Society

Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, was the

principal guest at the annual dinner of the County Surveyors' Society held last night at the RAC, Mr Tommy

Thompson, Director of Planning and Transportation for Leicestershire County Council, presided.

Birthdays today

Chief Eneke Anyaoku, Common-

wealth Secretary-General, 63; Air

Marshal Sir Alfred Ball, 75; Mr

Robert Banks, MP, 59; Mr Peter

Beardley, footballer, 37; Dr David

Bellamy, biologist, writer and

broadcaster, 63; Sir Michael Ben-

ford, former chairman, Social Security

Advisory Committee, 61; Mr John

Boorman, film director, 63; Mr

Raymond Briggs, illustrator and

author, 62; Professor M.J. Brown,

clinical pharmacologist, 45; Mr

David Burke, Chief Constable,

North Yorkshire, 57; Mr J.R. Carr,

former chairman, Countryside

Commission of Scotland, 69; Mr

Kevin Costner, actor, 41; Mr

Richard Dunwoody, jockey, 32;

Mr Christian Fitzpatrick, racing

driver, 25; the late Sir Rocco Forte,

chief executive, Fortis, 51; Sir

William Goodhart, QC, 63; Mr D.J.

Grant, Lord Lieutenant of County

Durham, 74; Mr James Ham,

former chairman, Scottish

Nuclear, 63; Sir William Harding,

diplomat, 69; Mr Robert Hicks,

MP, 38; Sir Terence Higgins, MP,

68; Mr John Houghton, chairman,

ACAS, 62; David Howell, MP, 54;

Mr John Hume, MP, MEP, 59;

Mr Edward James, diplomat, 79;

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, former

chairman, National Trust, 75; Mr

Paul Keating, Prime Minister of

Australia, 52; Mr Martin Laing,

chairman, John Laing, 54; Sir

Godfrey Le Queux, QC, former

chairman, Monopolies and Mergers

Commission, 72; Sir Peter

Preston, civil servant, 74; Sir Nigel

Strutt, former chairman, Strutt

and Parker (Farms), 83; Sir Walter

Vero, former secretary, Order of

the Garter, 89; Sir Ralph Verney,

landowner, 81; Sir Clive Whitmore,

civil servant, 61.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will launch

ChildLine's 10th Birthday appeal at

the Savoy Hotel at noon.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the

International Council, The Duke of

Edinburgh's Award International

Association, will attend the

presentation of Gold awards by the

President of Ireland in Dublin

Castle at 6.00, and later will

attend the 10th anniversary

dinner.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the

Home Farm Trust, will attend a

reception for current and

prospective patrons at BAFTA,

Piccadilly, at 11.30; as President of the

Patrons, Crime Concern, will

visit Kensington and Chelsea Sale

Clothes projects, Dartrey Tower,

World's End Estate and at Chelsea

Town Hall from 2.00; and, as

Patron of the Butler Trust, she will

view an exhibition and attend a

reception for HMP service staff at

Cleland House, George Street, SW1,

at 3.45; and, as Past Master of the

Loriners' Company, she will

attend a dinner at Vintners' Hall at

7.30.

The Duke and Duchess of

Gloucester will attend the Windsor

and Eton Society's golden jubilee

dinner at the Castle Hotel, Wind-

sor, at 7.45.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at

the Queen's Guard Mount at 11.00.

The Queen's Guard mounts at

Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

The Valentine Ball

The Valentine Ball will be held for

3,000 guests at The Café Royal on

Friday, February 2, 1996, at 7.30

and 12.30. Tickets from 0171-931

8840.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Louis de

Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu,

philosopher, Bordeaux, 1699; Jo-

seph Farwell Giddens, farmer,

inventor of barbed wire, 1813;

Matthew Webb, first English

swimmer, 1848; Arthur Ransome,

children's writer and dramatist,

London, 1882; Arthur Ransome,

author, 1884; Anthony Pevsner,

sculptor, 1886; Russia, 1886; Car-

ter Grant, actor, Bristol, 1906; Danny

Kaye, actor, Brooklyn, 1913.

DEATHS: Jan van Riebeck, sur-

geon and founder of Cape Town,

Djakarta, Indonesia, 1677; Sir John

Pringle, physician and President of

the Royal Society 1772, London,

1782; Edward Bulwer-Lytton, 1st

Baron Lytton, novelist and politi-

cian, Torquay, 1873; Rudyard

Kipling, first British writer to be

awarded the Nobel prize for lit-

erature, 1907, London, 1936; Sir

Coill Beaton, photographer, Broad

Chapel, Whitby, 1980.

Captain Charles de Sand-

wich Islands (Hawaii), 1718.

William of Prussia was proclaimed

as the 1st German Emperor, 1871,

Captain Robert Scott and his

expedition arrived at the South

Pole, 1912.

The Versailles Peace conference

opened, 1919.

Latest wills

Sir Kingsley William Ainslie,

of London NW1, the novelist and

poet, left estate valued at £45,083

net. He appointed his son Martin Ainslie

and Jonathan Ainslie, his literary

executors, and left his published and

unpublished works, manuscripts and

other items to his wife, Mrs Ainslie,

to follow the residue of his estate and

to leave £1,000 to his daughter, Mrs

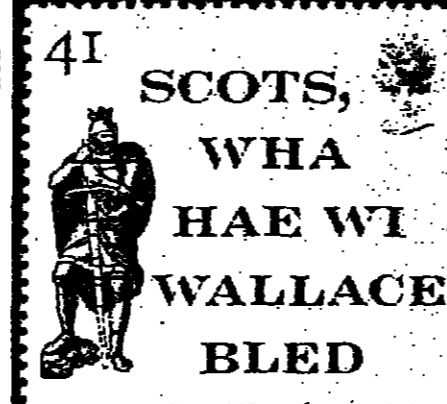
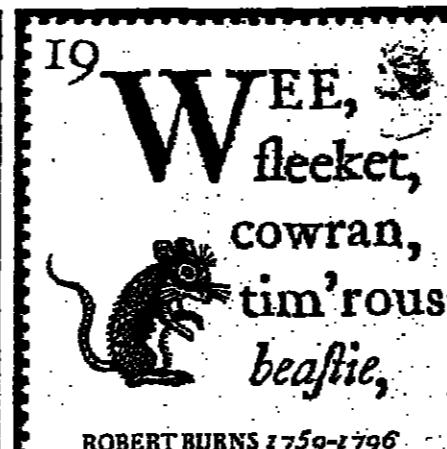
Wally, and £1,000 to his son, Martin.

Mr David George Francis

Nickerson, of London W11, an

independent former managing

director of Malletts in Bond Street,



This set of four special stamps to mark the bicentenary of Robert Burns' death was launched by Royal Mail yesterday at the White Hart Inn, Grassmarket, Edinburgh, where Burns stabled his horse on his first visit to the city in 1786 and where he stayed on his last visit there five years later. The stamps were designed by Andrew Wolfe of the design company, Taybourn McIlroy Coates

Mr Geoffrey Cross

The Queen was represented by

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller

at the Memorial Service for Mr

Geoffrey Cross, founder chairman of

the Royal Windsor Horse Show,

held yesterday at St Michael's,

Bray-on-Thames.

The Prince of Wales was

represented by Colonel Gerard Leigh,

the Duke and Duchess of York by

Captain Neil Blair, RN, Princess

Alice Duchess of Gloucester by

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon

Bland and Prince and Princess

Michael of Kent by Miss Anne

Prosser.

The Right Rev Michael Mann

officiated, assisted by the Rev

George Repath, Mr Patrick Cross,

nephew, and Mr Ian Bryden, son-

in-law, gave readings. Mr Michael

Clayton, Editor of *Horse and*

Country, gave an address. Among

other members of the committee

was Mrs Ethel Hyde-White, Mr Mark

Cross (son), Mr Sir Christopher

Archdale (son-in-law), Mrs

Patricia Archdale (daughter), and

other members of the committee

included Mrs Patricia Palmer

(governor, Windsor Castle), Mr

Michael Bullen (chairman, Royal

Windsor Horse Show), Mr

Bullen with Mr A. Wiseman (chief

executive, Royal Windsor Horse

show), Mr J. H. W. Jones (chair-

man, Windsor Castle), Mr J. H. W.

Jones (chairman, Windsor Castle),

Mr J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

(chairman, Windsor Castle), Mr

J. H. W. Jones (chairman, Win-

dor Castle), Mr J. H. W. Jones

Costa del Sol still shines

BRITISH holidaymakers still outnumber all others in the Costa del Sol. Last year 1.1 million arrived at Malaga airport — 36 per cent of the total number of arrivals. The Spanish themselves totalled 824,599, the Germans 284,542 and the French a mere 160,859, says the Costa del Sol tourist board.

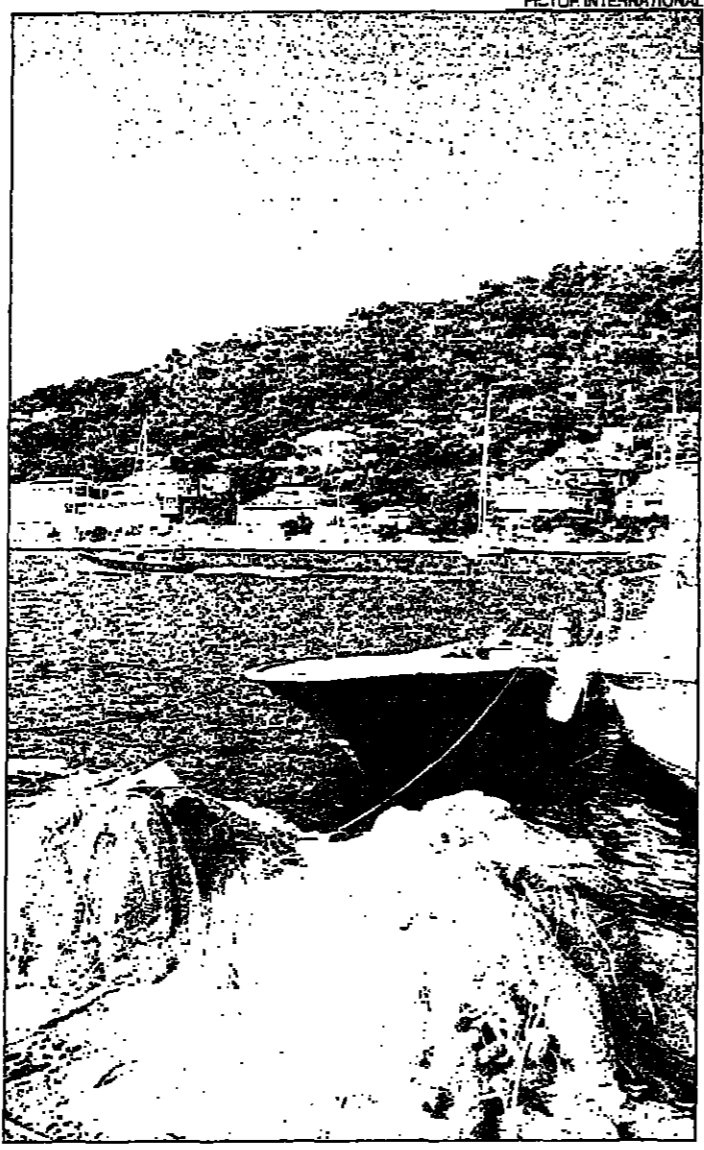
Word of the attractions of the Costa del Sol is spreading throughout the former Eastern bloc. In 1994 there were no Russian visitors but last year 26,624 arrived at Malaga airport.

Venice rocks

ST MARK'S Square in Venice is being taken over on February 17 and 18 for a free festival of electric and acoustic "world music" likely to attract 100,000 people. World — World of Music, Arts and Dance — will stage the show, which will feature performances by the Paris-based Papa Wemba and other musicians from four continents.

Wanderlust

WHITBREAD the brewery is investing £25,000 in the Heineken travel bursary to encourage young people to fulfil their thirst for adventure. The bursary will be available to anyone aged between 18 and 35 who convinces the company that they are genuine in their urge to travel and who want to fulfil their "wildest dreams". Heineken says that last year 182,000 young Britons went to the Far East and 305,000 to Australia.



Most of Anguilla's popular haunts were destroyed by Hurricane Luis

Hurricane clean-up

FROM ANTHONY HOLDEN IN ANGUILLA

THE PHONE was still out of order, and a mid-afternoon shower had turned the car park into a quagmire. But the food was spot-on, and fine wines flowed like rum punch last Saturday night as 40 people turned out for the reopening of Mango's, one of Anguilla's most popular beachside restaurants.

To David Schnittlich of New Jersey, long a regular visitor to this small but select of Caribbean islands, Mango's was simply "my favourite restaurant in the whole world". So last June he sold up his East Coast bagel chain and bought the place, in partnership with his wife, Carol, and a chef from one of Anguilla's luxury hotels.

As the Schnittlichs moved their worldly goods south to the sun, he closed Mango's for a three-month overhaul — only to watch dumbstruck on September 5, a week short of his grand reopening, as Hurricane Luis swept in and blew all his dreams away.

"Next morning," he says, "I sat on the beach and wept for an hour." All that remained of his elegant, ocean-lapped restaurant were a few chunks of twisted concrete, tossed around like children's building blocks by Luis.

Mango's second coming could not have happened unless the seasoned Schnittlichs, unlike many of Anguilla's smaller-scale entrepreneurs, had taken out insurance. The azure coastline of this British crown colony holds many tales

with less happy endings. In the eye of the storm for 14 hours, Anguillians awoke to find their island had been "browed" — deprived of its lush greenery and robbed of many of the pleasure domes beloved of its well-heeled holiday clientele — on the brink of the winter season.

Not merely had roofs been blown off, walls demolished, floors undermined and furniture waterlogged, but whole beaches had disappeared, depriving some of the West Indies' finest resorts of their raison d'être. At the luxury Cap Juluca this week, a dredger is rebuilding the mile-long beach along Maunday's Bay before the planned reopening next month of the hotel's 70 ritzy rooms.

On Barnes Bay the once-famous Cocoloba stands empty and devastated, a *Mary Celeste* among swank hotels. Its pool full of rotting debris, its palatial halls as ravaged and windswept as the ghostly Welles's at the end of Orson Wells's *Citizen Kane*.

Among other hotels familiar to British holidaymakers from the brochures of such firms as Caribbean Connection, the exotic Casa Blanca on Rendezvous Bay (where the Queen stayed in 1994) also stands empty, pending its imminent reopening under new American management as the Sonesta Beach Resort. Over at Cinnamon Reef in Little Harbour, however, it is business as usual after a heroic recovery from extensive damage —

chronicled in one of the before-and-after picture albums now found all over Anguilla.

Another survivor is the exclusive Shoal Bay West villa complex of Cove Castles, haunt of movie stars and other celebrities, much of whose beach has gone west — ending up outside the (destroyed and rebuilt) Paradise Café. "We're not too bothered," Norman Luxembourg, the manager, says. "Mother Nature will bring it back by June."

Above it all — literally as well as metaphorically, atop its stately Meads Bay bluff — rose the legendary Malliouhana, whose founder-owner Leon Roydon scarcely blinked when Luis made off with the wooden roof of his ocean-view restaurant and pillaged his lavish gardens. Closed in September, as luck would have it, Mr Roydon didn't hang around for insurance assessors before replacing the roof and repainting the walls, importing 20 container-loads of palm trees from Florida, and welcoming his October guests as if nothing much had happened.

Built to withstand 160mph winds and the strongest earthquakes, the Malliouhana, widely regarded as the Caribbean's finest hotel, is the only resort on the island now functioning at capacity. Amid the wreckage Luis left behind were Anguilla's 1995-96 tourist figures.

"But we are bouncing back," Mr Roydon, also a member of the island's tourist board, says. "Anguillians are very resilient."

Scotland is tops with US tourists

BY STEVE KEENAN

NORTH Americans discovering Britain by rail are choosing Scotland ahead of more traditional tourist areas. Four Scottish cities appear in the Top 20 cities, with Edinburgh second only to London and ahead of York.

Inverness also outstrips Bath and Chester, while Glasgow and Aberdeen have more appeal than Windermere in the Lake District, Cambridge and Stratford-upon-Avon do not appear at all.

The figures come from British Rail International, which has sold £20 million-worth of rail passes to American and Canadian tourists in the past year, worth on average £150 for a week's travel.

"The Americans love the trains because they don't really use them at home. But Britain has a highly developed network and Scotland is a big attraction to them," Ross Furby, managing director of BR International, says.

"If they buy a BR pass, people decide on average to go to three or four cities in the UK. Rail passes are a big growth area for us and sales are going up. We are pushing hard in the US."

BR International's Top 10 towns and cities for North American tourists are: 1. London; 2. Edinburgh; 3. York; 4. Inverness; 5. Bath; 6. Chester; 7. Oxford; 8. Glasgow; 9. Aberdeen; 10. Windermere.

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 481 1989 (TRADE)

CHECK-IN

FAX: 0171 481 9313

FLIGHTBOOKERS
travelling freestyle

AMERICAS & EUROPE
0171 757 2000

WORLDWIDE
0171 757 2444

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
0171 757 2468

FIRST & BUSINESS CLASS
0171 757 2500

ALSO AT GATWICK AIRPORT
01293 568 300

Open 7 days
7am - 10pm

Internet address: <http://www.flightbookers.co.uk>

City	Price	City	Price
New York	£175	Singapore	£429
Los Angeles	£265	Bangkok	£429
San Francisco	£265	Hong Kong	£449
London	£210	Tokyo	£385
Paris	£210	Beijing	£439
Amsterdam	£210	Manila	£439
Brussels	£210	Delhi	£439
Frankfurt	£210	Calcutta	£439
Munich	£210	Jaipur	£439
Cologne	£210	Chennai	£439
Düsseldorf	£210	Bombay	£439
Hamburg	£210	Hyderabad	£439
Leipzig	£210	Coimbatore	£439
Dresden	£210	Madras	£439
Wuppertal	£210	Chennai	£439
Berlin	£210	Chennai	£439
Moscow	£210	Chennai	£439
St. Petersburg	£210	Chennai	£439
Yokohama	£210	Chennai	£439
Osaka	£210	Chennai	£439
Kobe	£210	Chennai	£439
Fukuoka	£210	Chennai	£439
Sapporo	£210	Chennai	£439
Hiroshima	£210	Chennai	£439
Kyoto	£210	Chennai	£439
Nagasaki	£210	Chennai	£439
Beppu	£210	Chennai	£439
Yamaguchi	£210	Chennai	£439
Utsunomiya	£210	Chennai	£439
Maebashi	£210	Chennai	£439
Utsunomiya	£210	Chennai	£439
Maebashi	£210	Chennai	£439
Utsunomiya	£210	Chennai	£439
Maebashi	£210	Chennai	£439

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

Low cost flights worldwide
AND UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR RENTAL

Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service

LONDON Longhaul: 0171-938 3366
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234
BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000
GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2224
MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 6969
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

MAJOR USA

MAJOR TRAVEL offers great value on low cost flights. We fly from 15 UK Airports to all destinations in the USA, with the leading scheduled airlines.

Summer '96

City	Price
NEW YORK	£299
BOSTON	£349
CHICAGO	£369
HOUSTON	£399
ATLANTA	£399
WASHINGTON	£399
DALLAS	£449
FLORIDA	£449
SEATTLE	£449
DENVER	£449
LAS VEGAS	£449

Call now for your '96 brochure. Children from only £99

SUMMER BOOKINGS £10 DEPOSIT PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS
0171 485 7017

SERVING YOU, THE TRAVELLER, SINCE 1974.

BEST OFFERS!

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

What other Airlines call Business Class in their places Delta/Virgin call their Premium Economy Class (Mid Class)!

Return from London to New York via Atlanta

Airline	Price
AMERICAN	£299
DELTA	£299
VIRGIN	£299

GO PREMIUM CLASS! 0171 637 4107

FLY FIRST • BUSINESS • ECONOMY CLASS TO OVER 220 DESTINATIONS SAVE UP TO 50% ON MAJOR AIRLINES

AMERICAN'S BEST WORLDWIDE BUSINESS CLASS OFFERS

UP TO 50% OFF IN UNIQUE • BUSINESS CLASS

City	Price
NEW YORK	£299
LOS ANGELES	£299
SAN FRANCISCO	£299
HONOLULU	£299
SYDNEY	£299
MELBOURNE	£299
PERTH	£299
BRISBANE	£299
AUCKLAND	£299

GO AMERICAN FOR BUSINESS CLASS 0171 637 4107

JUST AMERICA

WEEKEND BREAKS
New York, Boston, Nashville, Las Vegas and many more exciting destinations.

NEW SUPER VALUE CAR RENTAL RATES

Including Collision Damage Waiver, Loss Damage Waiver, Theft Protection, Roadside Assistance, and more.

CONCH TOUR DISCOUNTS

Discounts apply to most Coach Tours.

For Memorabilia, Video, Photo Souvenirs, Souvenirs and much more call Just America.

1996 BROCHURE OUT NOW

01730 266588

SPRINGWAYS TRAVEL

DISCOUNT SCHEDULES FOR ALL DESTINATIONS

City	Price
NEW YORK	£299
LOS ANGELES	£299
SAN FRANCISCO	£299
HONOLULU	£299
SYDNEY	£299
MELBOURNE	£299
PERTH	£299
BRISBANE	£299
AUCKLAND	£299

0171 828 1090

SEE ITV

THE NATIONAL SALES CENTRE FOR OVER 100 LEADING SCHEDULED AIRLINES, WITH 70% DISCOUNT FARES TO 1500 DESTINATIONS.

City	Price
NEW YORK	£269
LOS ANGELES	£269
SAN FRANCISCO	£269
HONOLULU	£269
SYDNEY	£269
MELBOURNE	£269
PERTH	£269
BRISBANE	£269
AUCKLAND	£269

1996 FLIGHTS AT 1986 PRICES!
PHONE NOW 017 72 72 72 72

STA TRAVEL

far out!

BUT WITH OVER 120 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE WE'RE NEVER FAR AWAY

City	Price
Amsterdam	£69
Prague	£120
Toronto	£199
Nairobi	£317
London	£96
New York	£156
Kuala Lumpur	£399
Harare	£489
Paris	£56
Los Angeles	£269
Rio	£499
Brisbane	£550

London: Dubai • Bangkok • Taipei • Singapore • Brunei • Brisbane • Christchurch • Jakarta • Auckland • Tokyo • Honolulu • Los Angeles • London from £713

Europe: 0171 361 6161, Worldwide: 0171 361 6262

SUNDIAL TRAVEL LIMITED

Early '96 CITYSAVERS

City	Price
PARIS	£69
FLORENCE	£69
VENICE	£69
BUDAPEST	£69
PRAGUE	£69
VIENNA	£69

INC FLIGHTS AND HOTELS

BARGAIN FLIGHTS

City	Price
ALICANTE	£69
MALAGA	£69
FARO	£69
CANARIES	£69
VERONA	£69
VERONA	£69

BEST RATES FOR CAR HIRE

01276 686808

BEST OFFERS!

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

What other Airlines call Business Class in their places Delta/Virgin call their Premium Economy Class (Mid Class)!

Return from London to New York via Atlanta

Airline	Price
AMERICAN	£299
DELTA	£299
VIRGIN	£299

GO PREMIUM CLASS! 0171 637 4107

FLY FIRST • BUSINESS • ECONOMY CLASS TO OVER 220 DESTINATIONS SAVE UP TO 50% ON MAJOR AIRLINES

AMERICAN'S BEST WORLDWIDE BUSINESS CLASS OFFERS

UP TO 50% OFF IN UNIQUE • BUSINESS CLASS

City	Price
NEW YORK	£299
LOS ANGELES	£299
SAN FRANCISCO	£299
HONOLULU	£299
SYDNEY	£299
MELBOURNE	£299
PERTH	£299
BRISBANE	£299
AUCKLAND	£299

GO AMERICAN FOR BUSINESS CLASS 0171 637 4107

FLIGHT CENTRE

WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS

ACCESS VISA WELCOME

DISCOUNTED INSURANCE

ATOL 3172

0181 669 8607

Flight Savers

ALICANTE
FARO
LANZAROTE
MALAGA
ORLANDO
TENERIFE

Call TRAVEL BANK ON 0161 371 1312

Air Travel International

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

ALICANTE • FARO • LANZAROTE • MALAGA • ORLANDO • TENERIFE

0171 436 5618

KAP TRAVEL

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

ALICANTE • FARO • LANZAROTE • MALAGA • ORLANDO • TENERIFE

0181 840 4242

VACATION TRAVEL

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

ALICANTE • FARO • LANZAROTE • MALAGA • ORLANDO • TENERIFE

0800 372655

CANADA

LOW COST FLIGHTS • TOURS • HOTELS

CAR RENT • MOTORHOMES • SELF DRIVES

RESORTS • CRUISES • TRAVEL DEALS

FOR A 1996 BROCHURE CALL

0115 953 8888

WORLDWIDE

ATOL 3172

0121 252 3636

Rome £189

To make a booking or to request a brochure for this and more offers to 11 other exciting cities including Florence and Venice, see your travel agent, or phone:

Thomson CITYBREAKS

INTER EUROPE TRAVEL LTD

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

ALICANTE • FARO • LANZAROTE • MALAGA • ORLANDO • TENERIFE

0171 209 4000

SUMMER FLIGHTS FROM ONLY £89

Destination	Price
MAJORCA	£89
COSTA DORADA	£99
COSTA DEL SOL	£99
COSTA BLANCA	£99
MENORCA	£99
FUERTEVENTURA	£139
TENERIFE	£139
LANZAROTE	£145
GRAN CANARIA	£149
FLORIDA	£299

FREEPHONE 0500 011707

Airtours FLIGHTS

MUCH MORE THAN JUST A TICKET

WORLD SIZZLERS

FAREAST

City	Price
Bangkok	£299
Singapore	£299
Kuala Lumpur	£299
Hong Kong	£299
Manila	£299

MIDDLE EAST

City	Price
Cairo	£299
Amman	£299
Dubai	£299
Tel Aviv	£299
Luxor	£299

AUSTRALIA

City	Price
Sydney	£299
Melbourne	£299
Perth	£299
Brisbane	£299
Adelaide	£299

AFRICA

City	Price
Cape Town	£299
Durban	£299
Joburg	£299
Nairobi	£299
Lagos	£299

OCEANS APART

A DIVISION OF JUPITER TRAVEL

Example seasonal fares from

City	Price
PARIS	£69
CAIRO	£220
JO'BURG	£435
DELHI	£285
SYDNEY	£635
BANGKOK	£335
AUCKLAND	£690

Plus many more destinations available on request

01628 436 271 01992 01727 799700 0171 500033 833111

CRYSTAL TRAVEL

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

ALICANTE • FARO • LANZAROTE • MALAGA • ORLANDO • TENERIFE

0171 830 0600

FLYDRIVES ORLANDO

SUMMER 1996

14 NTS NON STOP

£159

01253 757575

سكزا من الأمل

Hotels that take the sauce

BALIFFSCOURT Hotel in West Sussex prides itself on its ability to pamper guests, especially over a weekend when they can sleep in four-poster beds, read the Sunday papers in front of log fires in their own large, bedroom-cum-sitting room and walk along the windswept pebble beach at Climping near Bognor Regis.

Last weekend I enjoyed just such a break in the "medieval" hotel (it was built from 13th, 14th and 15th-century timbers, stone and glass culled from places the current owners still blush to think about).

But like so many other good hotels with aspirations, Baliffscourt betrays that lack of class which ultimately separates the good from the great by its attitude to sauce. Brown sauce. Preferably HP.

I had ordered poached eggs on toast for breakfast. And, sure enough, they came perfectly cooked, on crisp toast, served with hot, well-brewed tea. But when I asked for what I consider an essential part of such a meal — HP sauce — I got a look approaching that drawn on waiters' faces by



H.M. Bateman in his "The man who..." cartoons.

"We don't," I was told tartly, "have brown sauce of any sort here, Sir."

Now I have eaten breakfasts brought to their full glory by brown sauce in some of the best hotels in Britain and its former colonies around the world. The very best hotels that are still trying to make the grade serve it coyly in little pots with a spoon, lest other guests are offended. Then come hotels such as Baliffscourt which, although otherwise good, convince themselves that brown sauce is eaten only by the people who really have no place in their establishment.

At the very bottom of the heap, of course, come those that serve sauce in appalling plastic sachets which have to be ripped open with your teeth.

And though the attitude towards HP sauce lies, in my view, at the very heart of hotel snobbery, there are any number of other afflictions that indicate a hotel's real standing. Collecting shoes from outside a guest's door, for example, is raffish. Removing them from the room without asking and quietly returning them later is class.

TEA-MAKING equipment which is prominently displayed with little packets of tea and coffee and UHT milk in tiny cartons is appalling. A kettle sited discreetly out of sight but with jars of coffee and good tea and — most important of all — fresh milk in a fridge or mini-bar is style, especially if the hotel makes it plain that there are also staff who will happily bring you tea or coffee at any time of the day or night.

Radios built into the bedside cabinet that never seem to work properly but which, you are told, are the only means of obtaining a wake-up call, are a clear indication that the hotel has a long way to go.

But then we all have our own prejudices and snobberies. My weekend really was relaxing and I enjoyed so many aspects of Baliffscourt. It would have been perfect had I been able to get my HP sauce.

Holiday bookings slump

By Harvey Elliott

AS HOLIDAYMAKERS continue to shun summer packages and bookings stubbornly remain about 25 per cent below last year's levels, official figures have revealed the full extent of the sales slump within the travel industry.

The leading five tour operators have reduced the number of holidays they have applied for licences to sell this year by 17.3 per cent, 11.5 per cent fewer than they sold last summer.

The top five together accounted for more than 60 per cent of all the airline seats and holidays officially licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) last summer.

"Tour operators are prepared to sell fewer holidays at profitable prices rather than be left with holidays that have to be sold at uneconomic prices in the late booking market," says Helen Simpson, head of licensing and finance at the CAA.

The average price of a foreign package holiday increased from £366 in 1994 to £361 last year, says the CAA, and the number of holiday-makers flying from Britain rose by about 7 per cent in 1995. But the figures fail to show the sudden drop in sales which led to widespread discounting during the year.

"There was an increase in passenger numbers but prices were clearly under pressure — there was a fall in average real terms despite the fact that tour operators had to bear higher costs and taxes than in the summer of 1994," Mrs Simpson says.

The industry had hoped that

bookings would have begun to increase by mid-January, but there is little sign of an upturn and they remain about 25 per cent down on the same time last year. The worst hit destination is Greece, with bookings down 40 per cent on 1995.

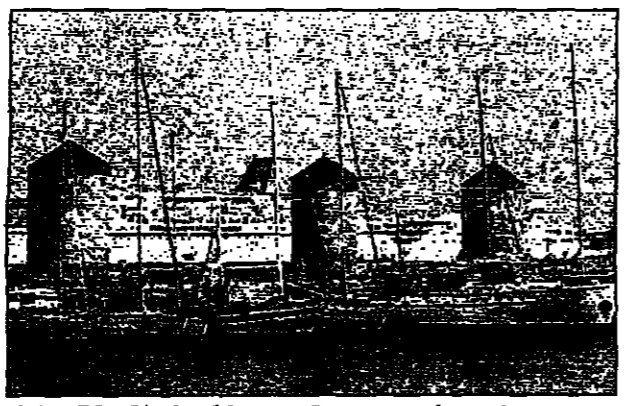
Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, Britain's second largest retail travel agency, forecasts that total package holiday bookings will still be 15-20 per cent down by the end of January. Even to achieve this gloomy result, the trade will need to see a sharp improvement during the next fortnight.

However, Fiona Stewart, of the Henley Centre for Forecasting, told members of the Tourism Society this week that there was no evidence of diminished desire by Britons to take a holiday.

She blamed a combination of two developments for "trickling" consumer confidence: the retreat of the "nanny state" and the prevalence of temporary employment contracts.

"When things look bleak, when we have to take greater responsibility for our own welfare, every now and then people say, 'let's forget it all and have a good time'. They are not prepared to make long-term commitments but at some stage they are going to say, 'I've had enough, let's go and have a holiday'."

Mr Bennett told the same meeting: "There are people out there who are not yet convinced that they are getting the best deal or that there is going to be a shortage of holidays."



Open Rhodes: bookings to Greece are down 40 per cent



Johanne Masheder: her body was found in a cave after she failed to return home

Backpack safety drive

By Tony Dawe and Carol Midgley

TRAVEL companies which specialise in backpacking holidays are busy trying to reassure young people — and their parents — that, with a few precautions, these trips are safe, inspiring and rewarding.

The murder of Johanne Masheder, whose body was found in Thailand last weekend at the end of a three-month trip, has shocked the industry and worried parents of those planning similar journeys.

Her death is the latest in the list of killings and kidnappings of young British travellers in India, Africa and South East Asia in recent years. Miss Masheder, 23, a law graduate who was about to start work with a firm of London solicitors, was one of the many thousands who take a year off before or after university.

"We will certainly not be stopping youngsters from going to Thailand," says Gillian Smith, marketing manager of STA Travel, "but we will advise

them to take extra care. They should check the leaflets prepared for young, independent travellers, read the guide books, especially for areas where recent disturbances have occurred and check with the Foreign Office."

STA, which handles 350,000 young travellers a year, has prepared leaflets entitled *Travel Inbetween* and *Traveling Solo* to offer guidance on planning a trip and avoiding trouble. "We also run a help desk for travellers to call should they lose their passport, get mugged or have a nervous breakdown," says Miss Smith.

Jennifer Cox, spokeswoman for Lonely Planet guide books, says Thailand is one of the safest places to travel

alone because the country is geared to backpackers. She advises travellers, however, to leave an itinerary of their journey with relatives, so their course can be tracked if they go missing, and to ring home at least once a week. "Being safe while you are travelling comes down to how to carry yourself," she says. "If you give the impression of knowing what you're doing, people won't take advantage."

Few travel experts believe that the horror of Miss Masheder's death or other recent tragedies will deter backpackers, eager for adventure in exotic places. Sophie Brown, a final year student from Manchester, remains determined to backpack through Asia. "My parents are trying to persuade me to go with them to Greece instead," she says, "but I have told them I want to cut loose before I get bogged down in a job."

STA Travel leaflets from 0171-937 1221: Foreign Office travel advice line: 0171-270 4129/4179

WHEN TRAVELLING SOLO

- ☐ Don't arrive alone at airports or train stations late at night
- ☐ Don't wear revealing clothes
- ☐ Don't drink alcohol alone in public
- ☐ Don't hitch-hike
- ☐ Don't draw attention to your cash or openly change large amounts
- ☐ Don't pore over maps on the street

Bargains to France

By Steve Keenan

FRANCE is hoping to win late bookings this year by cashing in on the slump in traditional Mediterranean holidays.

Britain's biggest five operators have already responded to poor demand by axing 1.4 million holidays for summer 1996, and more reductions are expected, so consumers may not find the usual flood of late bargains. With a ferry price war expected this summer, the French Tourist Office believes many families may make a late decision to opt for a holiday across the Channel instead.

"There are bound to be deals to France this year," says Dennis Fabri, FTO marketing director. "The battle among the ferry companies will continue — they won't hold their nerve this year." France is failing, along with other major summer destinations, to attract early bookings, with the result that special offers

are already appearing, some as a result of the ferry war. Drive France is cutting £50 off holidays, including a P&O European Ferries crossing to Cherbourg or Le Havre, while those booking a holiday with a Brittany Ferries day crossing will receive a free cabin; both to be booked by February 5.

French Country Camping is adding two free nights to two-week holidays and giving away £10 meal vouchers on Stena Line for bookings by January 31. While Keycamp last month cut July and August prices by 5 per cent, and has now launched a series of "under £100 per person holidays", with prices from £30 per person for five nights camping in Picardy and Normandy.

"Operators are getting no business but they need the money in to pay salaries, if nothing else," says M Fabri. The FTO is pushing its message that, despite the strong franc, France is cheap to reach and is good value for self-catering families.

Its argument was given a boost this week by Sunsties, the camping company, which has surveyed the cost of 15 items bought at Tesco in Northwich, Cheshire with the equivalent bought at Carrefour in Calais. The British shopping basket cost £19.28, compared with £14.10 in Calais.

CALENS, NORTHWICH

	Carrefour	Tesco
Baguette	0.25	0.57
Tomatoes (2)	0.25	0.30
Lemonade (10)	0.25	0.52
Fromage frais	(12) 1.80	(6) 1.39
Milk (1)	0.57	0.57
Orange juice (10)	0.67	0.59
Apples (2)	0.19	0.37
Butter	(10) 1.80	(2) 2.89
Red wine	0.94	0.78
Scalloped beef	1.02	1.79
Camembert	0.22	0.58
Eggs (6)	0.18	0.30
Potatoes	0.88	0.85
Pasta	(6) 3.15	(4) 4.81
Chicken fillets		
TOTAL	£14.10	£19.28

Note: all prices given in sterling; exchange rate £1 = Ffr.36

Luxury Bali hotel finishes £14m refit

FROM BILL FROST IN BALI

THE Nusa Dua Beach hotel, on the Indonesian island of Bali, owned by the Sultan of Brunei and considered by many to be the most opulent in the Pacific, this week completed a £14.5 million facelift.

The hotel remained open during the redevelopment although Kevin O'Hagan, the general manager, admits that perhaps it should have closed. "Some people were upset with us," he says.

But even the most curmudgeonly visitor would be hard-pressed to fault the new elegance and comfort of the 380 guest rooms and suites.

A new "palace" wing offers extreme opulence and absolute privacy. It is to this wing, with its liveried butler service, that Mr O'Hagan hopes to attract some big names. Former guests include Ronald Reagan, Helmut Kohl and King Hussein.

Having once suffered from a scarcity of luxury accommodation, this corner of the

island now has a glut. And the Nusa Dua Beach Hotel has a fight on its hands. Mr O'Hagan says: "We have to offer something different from everybody else. We have a new spa with health and beauty treatments and conference centre facilities. We are all competing fiercely now."

WEEKEND TRAVEL

Travel the world again in Weekend on Saturday

Family holidays in France, Denmark, Italy and Turkey

Scotland; Burns country

Skiing: John Samuel in Squaw Valley and Doug Sager on ski insurance

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

UNTIL the end of March.

HOLIDAYS Top Deck. Details: 0171-370 4555.

☐ A WEEK in a 2-star hotel in Limassol, Cyprus, leaving Gatwick next Wednesday is available for £170 per person from Sunworld. Details: 0113 255 5222.

☐ EURO CAMP has extended its early booking offer until January 31. Savings of £30 are available on tents and mobile homes at 280 sites with an extra £50 discount for holidays starting on August 22 or 23. Details: 01565 626262.

☐ SKIING holidays for a week in France, Switzerland and Andorra, with departures from Gatwick on Sunday, are available at savings of £20 to £50 per person from

☐ CRYSTAL France is offering savings of £150 plus a free welcome hamper at selected villas until January 31. Details: 0181-390 3335.

☐ TWO nights in Budapest during February and March at a 5-star hotel with return scheduled flights cost £299 per person with Moswin. Details: 0116 271 9922.

☐ SAVE up to half the brochure price on some cruises by booking at Lunn Poly before January 31. Details: 01203 223300.

HOLIDAY Inn has extended its special

Weekender rates at 170 hotels in Europe, the Middle East and Africa to weekdays. Offers, which include £45 room per night at the Glasgow Holiday Inn Garden Court with breakfast, are available until the end of February. Details: 0800 897121.

☐ INTER-CONTINENTAL Hotel and Resorts has a "winter sale" of its Heart of the City breaks at 48 European hotels until January 31. A typical deal is £69 per room per night at the Hamburg hotel, available every day. Details: 0345 581444.

☐ VISA cardholders can obtain discounts of up to 30 per cent off regular rates at 140 hotels throughout the world

that are members of the reservation company, Supra-National Hotels. Hotels range from Praha in Prague to the Jurys Kensington in London. Reservations 0500 303030.

☐ EGERTON House in Knightsbridge, a London town house hotel, has a rate of £160 for two per night instead of the usual £195 until the end of February. Details: 0171-589 2412.

☐ THE Old Course hotel at St Andrews in Scotland has a special offer of £99 per person until the end of March for two nights' accommodation, full Scottish breakfast and use of the hotel's leisure spa facilities. Fees for the hotel's new golf course are extra. Details: 01334 474371.

AIR FRANCE has a bargain package to Paris until March

31. Each passenger (a minimum of two people must travel) pays £99, which includes return flights from London, two nights' accommodation including breakfast and free passes for public transport and museums. Details: 0181-742 6600.

☐ BOOK seven days ahead, include a Saturday night away and Maersk Air will sell you a Gatwick-Copenhagen ticket for just £120. Details: 0171-333 0066.

☐ AUSTRIAN Airlines has retimed its London-Vienna flights to leave from Heathrow at 6.35am and return at 7.45pm.

☐ LE Shuttle has special daytrip and overnight fares for travel from Folkestone to Calais until March 31, but excluding February 15-25. Details: 0990 333535.

☐ NORTH Sea Ferries has cut prices by up to 30 per

cent by no longer automatically including

fares. A peak season crossing from Hull to Zeebrugge or Rotterdam falls from £506 to £385 for an outside cabin for four people plus car, without meals.

☐ DRIVELINE Europe has daytrip fares and 28-day returns (travel between 11pm-6am) with Le Shuttle from £39. Details: 01707 660011.

☐ STENA Line is cutting 50 per cent off caravan fares on Southampton-Cherbourg and Dover-Calais throughout 1996, for bookings by January 31. The saving is up to £38. Details: 0990 707070.

☐ IRISH Ferries has a long weekend offer (leave Friday and back on Tuesday) from Holyhead and Pembroke of £134 return until March 26. It also has a 48-hour return of £63. Bookings by January 31. Both fares are for a car and five passengers. Details: 0345 171717.

After a few ports we decided it had been a vintage holiday Mum & Dad

The SAGA 17 New London WIP Eng

40 years of listening carefully to Saga customers has taught us what our holidaymakers expect. That's why so many customers book with us again. Our many holiday options include exciting ocean and river cruises, varying from a week long cruise to a 91 day adventure around the world. If you are aged 50 or over, call our 24-hour request line for your new holiday brochures.

FREE 0800 300 456

Est 2184

SAGA

FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

Please return to: Saga Holidays Ltd., FREEPOST (NT2710), Peterlee X, Co. Durham SR8 1SH. You do not need a stamp.

Please send me the following holiday brochures:

Worldwide ☐ USA/Canada ☐

Europe & College Cruise ☐ Europe ☐

Coach Holidays ☐ Single Centre ☐

Europe & the Mediterranean ☐ Africa, Asia, Australasia ☐

Hotel Stays ☐ Lochs/Tour ☐ Cruises ☐

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____

Address _____

Town _____

County _____ Tel No. _____

Date of Birth (Mo) / (Da) / (Yr) _____ Date of Birth (Mo) / (Da) / (Yr) _____

Do you currently receive brochures from Saga? Yes ☐ No ☐

Saga Holidays Ltd. would like to send you information about our new products and services. We will only contact you if you have given us your permission to do so. Please tick the box if you agree.

A Special Announcement

A Week on the Nile - 7 nights from £395

Travellers are flocking back to Egypt but prices have not yet caught up with demand. Earlier this year we secured some extraordinarily low prices for a superior product and we can therefore continue to offer cruises on the first-class MS Ra Nile cruiser. The tour represents excellent value for money since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions.

The journey commences with a direct flight from Gatwick to Aswan to join the MS Ra. Our week-long cruise will include visits to the Temple of Edfu, Esna, the Temple of Karnak, the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Luxor, Kom Ombo, and the Aswan High Dam.

THE MS RA

The MS Ra is a large Nile cruiser purpose built in Britain accommodating up to 140 passengers. Facilities on board include a restaurant, lounge, bar, sun deck with swimming pool, jacuzzi. All cabins are air conditioned and have private bathrooms. For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

1996 Mondays - per person in twin

February 5, £2,635

March 11, 18, 25, £450

April 15, 22, 29, £430

May 6, 13, 20, 27, £430

June 3, 10, 17, 24, £395

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, £395

August 5, 12, 19, 26, £430

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, £450

October 7, 14, 21, 28, £450

November 4, 11, 18, 25, £495

December 2, 9, £450

December 16, £395

December 23, 30, £495

Supplements - per person

Single cabin £150

Middle deck £45

Upper deck £95

Abu Simbel (by road) £69

Price includes: air travel, transfers, flights on the Nile, full board, excursions, entrance fees, hotel representation, not included: insurance, visa (can be obtained by the Company), airport taxes, VISA.

All prices are subject to change.

0171-616 1000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square

London NW1 6GG

Travel Promotions Ltd

0171-616 1000

Our offices are open for telephone reservations weekdays 9am to 7pm and at weekends 10am to 5pm. For personal callers, our office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays.

Lisbon, Porto & Faro

from

£114

with 3 days free car hire.

For reservations and full conditions contact your local travel agent or TAP Air Portugal: 0171 828 0262

2 adults must travel together and stay Saturday night

Group A car hire Offer subject to availability

NEWS

Queen refuses to bail out Duchess

The Queen is refusing to help the Duchess of York with her debts, which are more than £1 million, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

The Duchess, whose spending far outpaces her income, must face her money responsibilities alone, according to the palace. Her overdraft, which is said to be with Coutts bank, could attract interest charges of £91,000 a year at a rate of 2.5 per cent over the base rate. Pages 1, 7, 15, 18

Tory MPs report plot to oust Major

A group of Tory grandees is privately plotting to oust John Major after the expected losses in the May council elections. Conservative MPs have told *The Times* that the group of the "great and the good" includes leading figures previously regarded as loyal to the Prime Minister. Page 1

Black Sea deal

The Turkish Government and the pro-Chemical companies who hijacked a Black Sea ferry and threatened to blow it up agreed in principle to end the crisis peacefully. Pages 1, 12, 13, 19

Petrol price war

Shell followed Esso's price cuts by taking up to 4.4p a litre off its prices at all 2,000 of its garages, starting a discount war between Britain's largest petrol retailers. Page 1

Virgin challenge

Virgin Television launched a legal challenge against the Independent Television Commission's decision to award the fifth channel licence to Channel 5 Broadcasting (CSB). Page 5

TV sports levy

A former Tory sports minister called for a £5 "sports levy" to be added to the TV licence fee to counter competition from satellite broadcasters. Page 6

Church's direct line to Heaven

David Wills, vicar of Mossley Hill in Liverpool, wants to use his church as an aerial for a mobile telephone company. Parishioners are appalled by the prospect of phone users, who include drug dealers and criminals, routing their calls via the House of God. The company's payment will help towards the £200,000 urgently needed for building work. Page 6

Vasectomy warning

Three judges warned women not to take for granted a lover's assurance that he had had a vasectomy and could not make her pregnant. An Oxford teacher had claimed damages against a pregnancy advice clinic. Page 8

Fewer students

University applications are down by 5,000 this year, the first fall since the Government's big expansion of higher education a decade ago. Page 9

EU man sacked

Bernard Connolly, the British EU official whose attack on monetary union caused a furore last September, was sacked by the Brussels Commission. Page 11

Delhi scandal

The prosecution of seven senior politicians for alleged involvement in a financial scandal has stunned the political establishment in Delhi. Page 14



A cave at Bruniquel, near Toulouse, where French archaeologists have found signs of human habitation 50,000 years ago

BUSINESS

EMU: A European Central Bank is unworkable under current economic and political conditions and should be postponed, says Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National and a former European Commissioner. Page 25

Gas: Competition to supply gas to 500,000 homes in the south-west of England may have to be delayed because of concerns at British Gas that technical preparations are incomplete, the regulator for the gas industry said. Page 25

Fortes: The decisive moment in the battle for Fortes comes tomorrow when both Fortes and Granada hold their final meeting with Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager with 15 per cent of Fortes and a similar Granada stake. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 6.4 points to close at 3704.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 83.4 to 83.2 after a fall from \$1.5383 to \$1.5295 and from DM2.2419 to DM2.2390. Page 28

SPORT

Football: England will open their qualifying programme for the 1998 World Cup with an away game against Moldova. Scotland start with a visit to Austria. Page 48

Tennis: Tim Henman, Britain's lone survivor in the Australian Open, submitted with a regrettable ease in the second round of the men's singles to Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden. Page 45

Rugby union: Dean Richards will be on the replacements' bench for England in their opening five nations' championship match against France after the withdrawal of Tim Rodber. Page 42

Racing: Tony McCoy, the rising star among National Hunt jockeys, rode his 100th winner of the season at Nottingham and went on to complete a 22-1 treble. Page 43

Skis: After the death of the downhill skier Kirsteen McGibbon John Bryant examines the conflicting demands for greater speed on skis and greater safety. Page 46

Films of the week: Nicolas Cage drinks himself to oblivion in Mike Figgis's *Leaving Las Vegas*, while Michelle Pfeiffer works miracles on inner-city kids in the rose-tinted *Dangerous Minds*. Page 37

Covent Garden triumph: The Royal Opera's new production of *The Midsummer Marriage* confirms that Michael Tippett's postwar opera is one of the great works of the 20th century. Page 38

Opera move: English National Opera has launched a home for experimental work in east London, in a fresh attempt to nurture new talent. Page 38

Mime high: If you get into the right mood, there is beauty, gravity and wonder in Raimund Hoghe's 90-minute requiem, *Meinwärts*, which is part of the London International Mime Festival. Page 39

Young Arts: Hilary Finch explains how young deaf children are being taught to speak with the aid of music therapy. Page 39

Royal in-laws: How the turbulent marriages of Charles and Andrew brought the Queen to the brink of despair. Page 15

Miners' fingers: Dr Thomas Shuttford on what causes white finger disease. Page 16

Cut back on cut prices: As sales of package holidays slump, tour operators are cutting back on destinations. Pages 22, 23

The fighting in Pervomaiskoye may win Boris Yeltsin support from some Communist and nationalist voters but it seems unlikely to secure his re-election and could undermine whatever hope he may harbour of sustaining reform in a second term as President. — *The New York Times*

Preview: Can a randomly chosen foursome become the new Take That? *Inside Story: A Band Is Born* (BBC1, 10pm). Review: Matthew Bond on how Hollywood men try to improve their manhood. Page 47

Sea of troubles

The West must soon ask whether it should still offer such visible support for President Yeltsin, a man floundering in such contradictions. Page 19

Public companies

In the last act of the Granada-Forte soap opera, fund managers should remember they are entrusted with the public's savings, the public confidence in the City and a good deal else besides. Page 19

Seize the time

The best rebuke MPs of all parties can deliver to the Government's limp cowardice over the daylight saving Bill is a large enough presence in the House on Friday to prolong the debate. Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Rome at the time of the Emperor Augustus, Venice in the age of Titian, London in the year of Waterloo, New York in the Roaring Twenties must have had Hong Kong's heady feeling of unlimited energy. Page 15

PETER RIDDELL

The Liberal Democrats have survived the Blair phenomenon and could still have an influential role in the next parliament. Page 10

Kaye Webb, publisher; His Hon Peter Hopkin Morgan, QC, circuit judge; Sir Peter Shepherd, industrialist. Page 21

Prisoners' education; bishops' palaces. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD CHAMPIONSHIP 1996 QUALIFYING PUZZLE

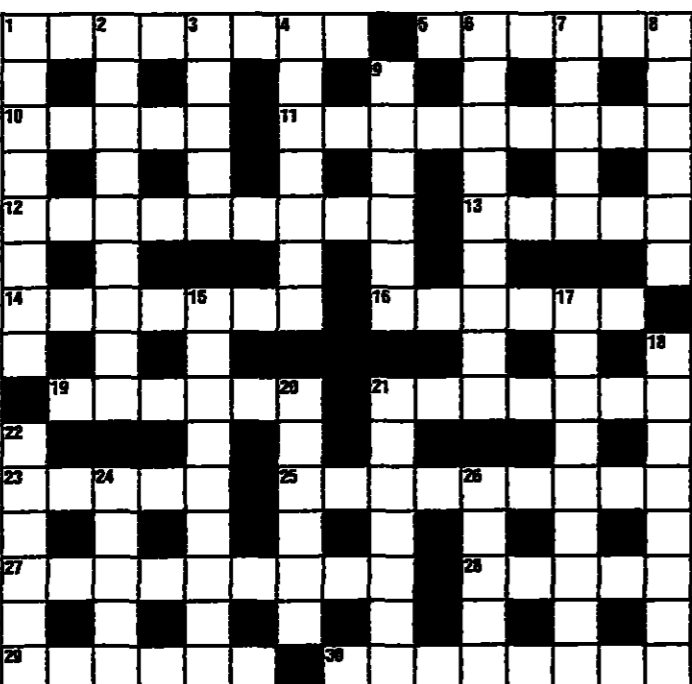
I/We enclose cheque for £6 (individual) or £10 (pair) as the entry fee for the 1996 Times Crossword Championship, with stamped and addressed envelope (9"x4")

NAME(S) (please print)

ADDRESS

VENUE

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,067



ACROSS

- 1 Take off on the breeze here (8).
- 5 Repudiate a bishop by Roman law (6).
- 10 Popular Roman leader ignoring a French political division (5).
- 11 Complete change in the heartless female in volume one (5-4).
- 12 Make arrogant pronouncement about God to artist, without a point (9).
- 13 Like Kantisha as daughter-in-law, pick and choose (5).
- 14 Bend the knee in bed (7).
- 16 Fixed peg in seat (6).
- 19 Live at place near Brighton to be fit, in a word (6).
- 21 Runner — one who worries (7).
- 23 Endure a burn (5).
- 25 Hollywood star dancer's finale in can-can (3-3-3).

DOWN

- 2 Strange choice before vital game (3-6).
- 3 Transport route that carries your food, for example (5).
- 9 It's about all there for nourishing drink (6).
- 10 Does any organisation comprehend the point of such a long journey? (8).
- 11 The cure is not a diet, anyway! (8).
- 12 Device for measuring cats and dogs (4-5).
- 13 Sea maiden — is transformed into a Greek character (5).
- 14 Bill is vocal (7).
- 15 He does yeoman service for the meat consumer (9).
- 16 Treatment for American with senility (5).
- 17 No trumps accepted in women's tournaments (6).
- 18 Those who work with nippers (6).
- 19 Very low floor (5-4).
- 20 Being sixteen, wanting to reform church (9).
- 21 Statesman and tale-telling old landowner (8).
- 22 Bath's cry of joy as the water rose (6).
- 23 Sweet young aristocrat contemplated (7).
- 24 Player is too boisterous, to some extent (6).
- 25 Ties the line and serves (5).
- 26 Indians can broadcast within island (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,066

ENIGMATIC SCIMITAR
KINGDOM
PIANOFORTE LEAD
A B I T I O N
NASTY TO WORK
S T R U E
EVIDENT PICTURE
G O E N
TAKEOFF ADDISON
T H I N G
H A N G I N G
E O S E
N I M E H A I R I N N
S I L I N A
ATTEND RAILLERY

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Today we publish the qualifying puzzle for the Times Crossword Championship 1996 in conjunction with Aberlure Pure Single Highland Malt Whisky.

Competition rules

Competitors may qualify by correctly solving and submitting this puzzle, sending the completed puzzle with the entry form, cheque for £6/£10 (see below) and stamped addressed envelope to the Times Crossword Championship (to whom cheques should be made out), 13 Church Lane, Ripon, N Yorks. HG4 2ES, so that the entry is postmarked not later than January 26. The solution will be published on January 29, and all competitors will be informed of the result not later than February 9.

Separately from the normal competition for individuals there will also be a pairs category this year for the first time. Any two people may qualify as a pair, and will take part in the regional finals on the same basis as individuals, thus: at each regional final the regional winner plus one additional competitor for every 60 or part-60 competitors will qualify for the final from 61-120 competitors, 2 from 121-180 etc. Any enquiries concerning these rules may be addressed to M.C. C. Rich at 01765 614024.

The entry fee for an individual is £6, for a pair £10. Regional finals will be one-day (four puzzle, events as follows: Manchester (25th February), Edinburgh (31st March), Bristol (25th April), London (25th May), Birmingham (7th July). In all cases — note the single day: at London — we hope to avoid an eliminator puzzle, but if necessary this will be published on Thursday, February 22nd. The final will be held at The Hyatt Carlton Tower on Saturday, October 5.

In the event of any dispute the decision of the Crossword Editor of *The Times* will be final. Employees of *The Times* Newspapers Ltd may not compete.

ETIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1996. Published and printed by the London and Westminster Publishing Company, 13 Church Lane, Ripon, N Yorks. HG4 2ES. Telephone 01765 614024. Fax 01765 614025. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

LOADING TIE IN AN ACCIDENT NEEDN'T BE FUDDY

Techs are very vulnerable to accidents. High quality recreation could cost thousands. With WPA, 60p a week ACCIDENTAL DEATH INJURIES PLAN you could afford it.

OWPA

Ring WPA DIRECT FREECALL 0300 43 93 21 QUOTING ACCVS

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a dull start with light rain and cloud covering high ground in west. During the morning it will brighten up with sunny spells in places, especially North Wales and parts of southern England. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some rain or drizzle in the north-west but elsewhere it will be cloudy but mainly dry. Eastern parts can expect some sunny intervals but cloud and intermittent drizzle will spread to all parts after dark.

London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles: fog clearing, mainly grey but some bright or sunny spells. Wind light south-east. Mild in the bright spells. Max 10C (50F).

E Anglia, E England, NE England: foggy and overcast. Fog lifting but still rather cloudy, occasional bright spells. Mainly dry after dark. Wind light to moderate south. Max 9C (48F).

E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N:

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Rain	Max	Min	Sea
Aberdeen	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Anglesey	11	10	0.04	12	8	du
Armagh	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Belfast	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Birmingham	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Bournemouth	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Cardiff	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Carlisle	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Edinburgh	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Exeter	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Falmouth	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Glasgow	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Harrogate	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Hull	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Leeds	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Liverpool	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Manchester	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Nottingham	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Sheffield	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Southampton	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Stirling	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Swansea	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Torquay	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Weymouth	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Wolverhampton	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Wrexham	10	10	0.04	12	8	du

RECORD

Area	Temp	Wind	Rain	Max	Min	Sea
Aberdeen	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Anglesey	11	10	0.04	12	8	du
Armagh	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Belfast	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Birmingham	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Bournemouth	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Cardiff	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Carlisle	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Edinburgh	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Exeter	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Falmouth	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Glasgow	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Harrogate	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Hull	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Leeds	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Liverpool	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Manchester	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Nottingham	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Sheffield	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Southampton	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Stirling	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Swansea	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Torquay	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Weymouth	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Wolverhampton	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Wrexham	10	10	0.04	12	8	du

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic news, information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25

East: M25 to Boreham/Beckingham/Don

West: M25 to Boreham/Beckingham/Don

M25 London Central only

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways

West Country

East

Midlands

East

North-east England

North-west England

Scotland

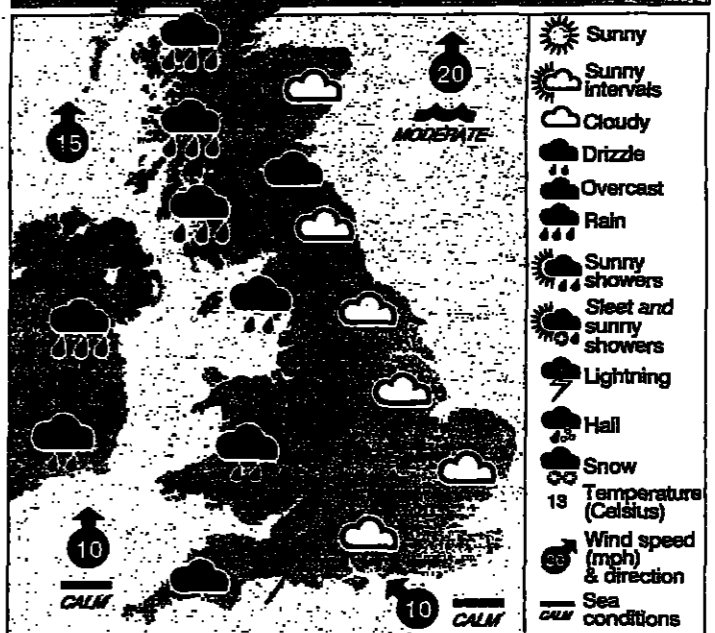
Northern Ireland

AA Roadwatch is charged at 28p per minute (cheapest rate) and 48p per minute at all other times

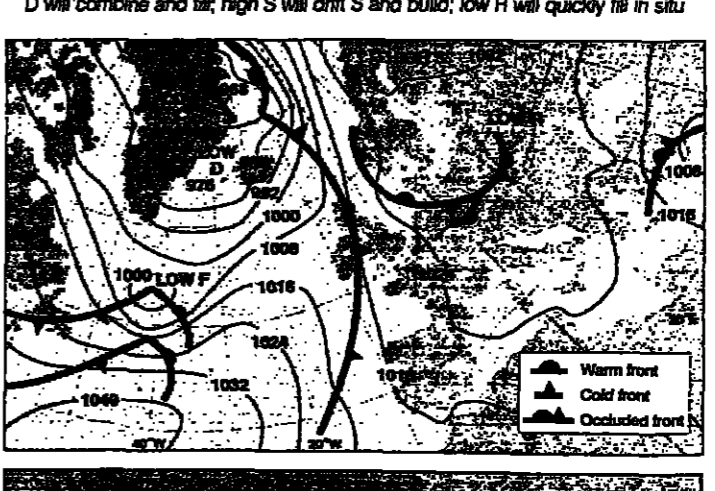
WEATHER & CLIMATE

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Harro Bay, Kent, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Walsingham, Norfolk, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Bournemouth, W. Isles, 0.5in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 7.9h.

FORECAST



Changes to the chart below from noon: low F will track NE and deepen; lows C and D will combine and fill; high S will drift S and build; low R will quickly fill in situ



Area	Temp	Wind	Rain	Max	Min	Sea
Aberdeen	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Anglesey	11	10	0.04	12	8	du
Armagh	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Belfast	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Birmingham	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Bournemouth	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Cardiff	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Carlisle	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Edinburgh	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Exeter	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Falmouth	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Glasgow	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Harrogate	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Hull	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Leeds	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Liverpool	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Manchester	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Nottingham	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Sheffield	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Southampton	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Stirling	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Swansea	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Torquay	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Weymouth	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Wolverhampton	10	10	0.04	12	8	du
Wrexham	10	10	0.04	12	8	du

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic news, information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25

East: M25 to Boreham/Beckingham/Don

West: M25 to Boreham/Beckingham/Don

M25 London Central only

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways

West Country

East

Midlands

East

North-east England

North-west England

Scotland

Northern Ireland

AA Roadwatch is charged at 28p per minute (cheapest rate) and 48p per minute at all other times

WEATHER & CLIMATE

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Harro Bay, Kent, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Walsingham, Norfolk, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Bournemouth, W. Isles, 0.5in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 7.9h.

The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.

For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.